



LIFT Annual Report 2017

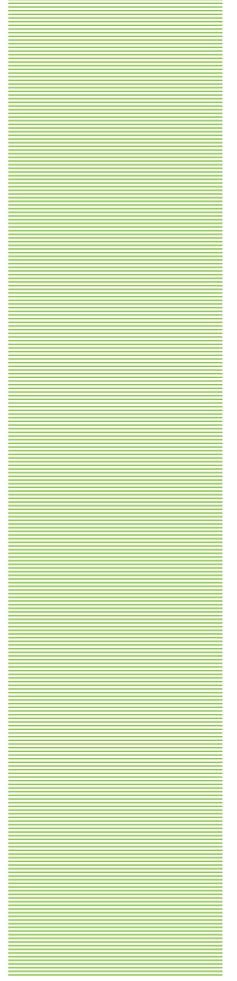


Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund



LIFT
Annual Report

2017



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Disclaimer

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

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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

INGO

International Non-Governmental Organisation

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 Trust Fund (LIFT) has been operating in Myanmar since 2010, helping poor, rural people to reach their full economic potential and resilience through improved nutrition, income diversification and skills development.

LIFT works to ensure no one is left behind in the rural transition occurring in Myanmar and that the poorest and most vulnerable benefit from the growth, change and opportunities the structural transformation of Myanmar's economy brings. LIFT does this by designing and implementing programmes that target the most vulnerable people and the hard-to-reach geographies of the country.

Research funded by LIFT and conducted in 2016 and 2017 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. Inclusion and social cohesion are a strong focus of LIFT's programmes to ensure no one is left behind.

LIFT support, amounting to USD 451 million, has reached around 9.4 million rural people, roughly 26 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 2017, LIFT started new nutrition activities in Chin State and launched the migration programme supporting men and women migrants to make their migration safer and more empowering. 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 2.1 million people with microfinance financial services. LIFT expanded its work in conflict-affected areas in 2017. These programmes, the civil society engagement programme and projects working with people with disabilities and the elderly, 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 2017, 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 attracted 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. In 2017, LIFT's Agribusiness Finance Programme delivered 87 million in financing for agricultural equipment valued at USD 106 million that was purchased by rural entrepreneurs who are building businesses in machinery rental services. By the end of 2017, LIFT was funding 64 financial institutions active in 216 townships and client growth increased by 23 per cent. The majority of clients use their loans for livestock, agriculture production in crops, and aquaculture. USD 648 million of agriculture loans have been disbursed, a growth of 50 per cent since 2016. Mechanisation and credit are

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.

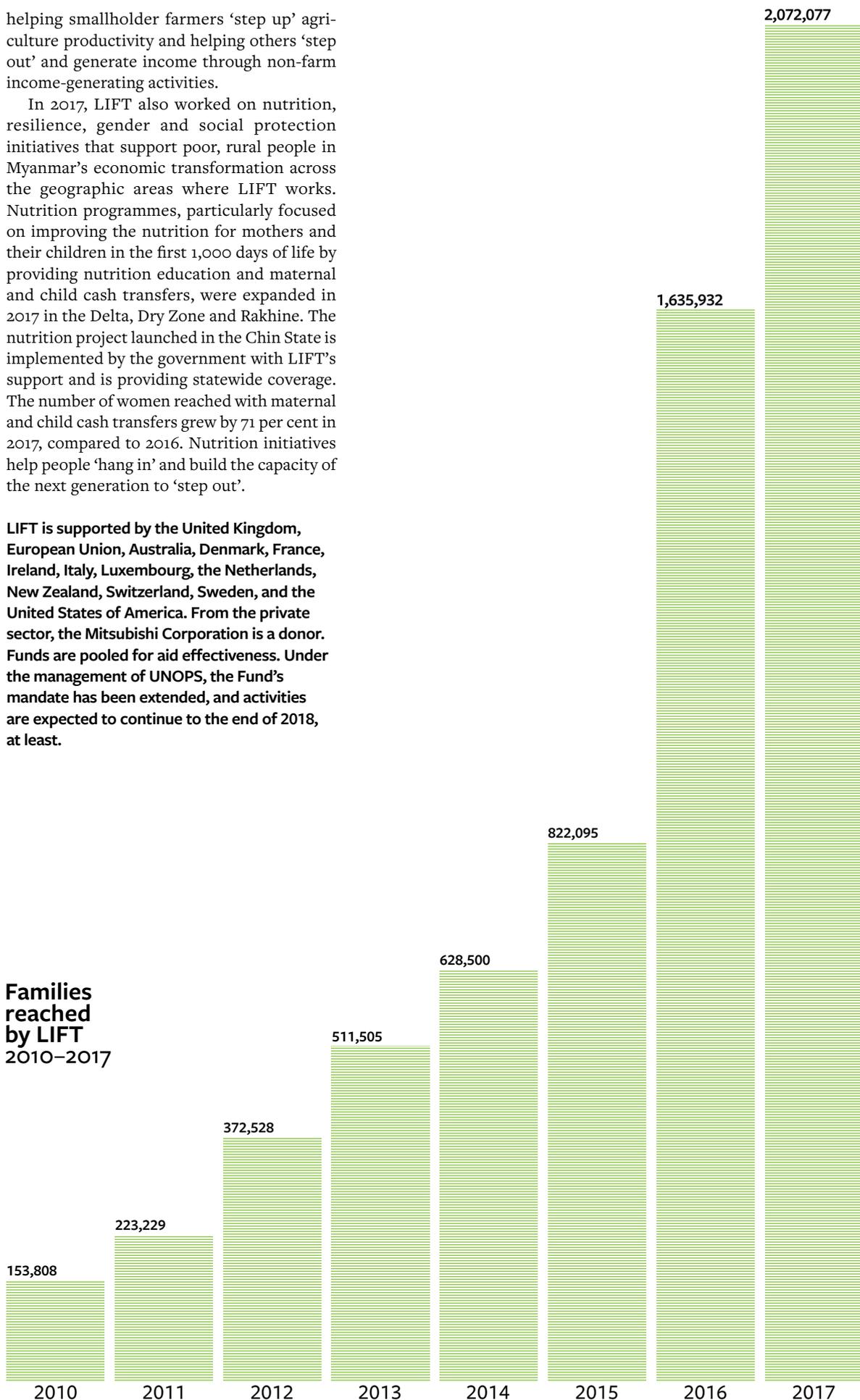
4 Michigan State University, 'Rural off-farm incomes in Myanmar's Dry Zone', December 2017.

helping smallholder farmers ‘step up’ agriculture productivity and helping others ‘step out’ and generate income through non-farm income-generating activities.

In 2017, LIFT also worked on nutrition, resilience, gender and social protection initiatives that support poor, rural people in Myanmar’s economic transformation across the geographic areas where LIFT works. Nutrition programmes, particularly focused 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, were expanded in 2017 in the Delta, Dry Zone and Rakhine. The nutrition project launched in the Chin State is implemented by the government with LIFT’s support and is providing statewide coverage. The number of women reached with maternal and child cash transfers grew by 71 per cent in 2017, compared to 2016. Nutrition initiatives help people ‘hang in’ and build the capacity of the next generation to ‘step out’.

LIFT is supported by the 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 activities are expected to continue to the end of 2018, at least.

Families reached by LIFT 2010–2017



1.0

Executive Summary

1. 2017 marked the eighth year for the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, with continued growth in terms of people reached.

In 2017, LIFT had worked in 246 townships, 74 per cent of Myanmar's townships. At the end of the year 9.4 million rural people—or roughly 26 per cent of Myanmar's rural population had been reached by LIFT. This represents a 22 per cent increase on the previous year and continued expansion to reaching the most vulnerable in hard-to-reach areas. Contributing to the growth was LIFT's investment in jump-starting the microfinance capital market in Myanmar, which enabled a significant increase in the outreach of microfinance institutions including to areas emerging from conflict.

2. LIFT continues to deliver good results.

Of the 34 indicators reported on, LIFT met or exceeded 30 or 88 per cent of its 2017 milestones. LIFT met or exceeded all of its purpose-level outcomes, including increased household incomes, assets, income diversity, resilience, diet diversity, food provisioning and stunting. Over the life of LIFT, these results translate to an estimated 3.5 million and 3.3 million people living in households that increased their incomes and assets respectively, 3.7 million people with strengthened resilience, and 432,000 households with improved diets. It is important to note, however, that both the income diversity and stunting results are provisional and being further verified with other data sources.

3. LIFT managed more projects in 2017 than ever before.

LIFT had 75 ongoing projects at the end of 2017, the highest number since its start. Fourteen new grants were signed in 2017. The government became an implementing partner for the first time with the LIFT-funded maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) project in Chin State, implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR)'s Department of Social Welfare.

4. 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. 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 also 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's pilot of elderly pensions in the Dry Zone and its collaboration with social protection committees and government staff contributed to the government's 2017 roll-out of a national pension scheme for the elderly. In 2017, in the Dry Zone, LIFT began supporting people with disabilities with bi-monthly grants. In Rakhine, one of the last developed areas of Myanmar LIFT's work focuses on improving people's nutrition, food security and climate-resilient agriculture. This work continued in 2017. New to LIFT's portfolio in Rakhine in 2017 was a focus on technical and vocational skills training to support people 'step out' of agriculture into more productive sectors of Myanmar's or Rakhine's economy. In the Uplands, the contexts are diverse and include areas engaged in, or affected by conflict. In 2017, LIFT's work expanded in the south-east of the country and LIFT began engaging with multiple stakeholders, including government and ethnic armed groups, on building development strategies and creating livelihood opportunities for internally displaced people. In other Upland areas, interventions on nutrition, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and value chains that began in 2016 progressed well.

5. LIFT adjusted its approach to programming in Rakhine after violence led to the displacement of 700,000 people.

In August 2017, the report from the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Kofi Annan and mandated by the Government of Myanmar, was released. The report provided recommendations on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, reconciliation, institution building and development. The report was accepted by the government but coincided with the outbreak of renewed and large-scale violence, resulting in the displacement of 700,000 Muslims from Rakhine, as well as the displacement of 27,000 Rakhine Buddhists and people from ethnic minority groups. LIFT's projects in northern Rakhine were suspended

while partners in central and southern Rakhine continued after a short period of inactivity. LIFT and the Fund Board monitored the situation closely, with implementing partners, to develop principles to guide further work in Rakhine. In December, LIFT issued a USD 10 million call for proposals, aligned with the Rakhine Advisory Commission and with a focus on access to safe livelihoods and nutrition, ‘for potential projects that ensure that humanitarian and development needs of all people in Rakhine are addressed in a coordinated way for greater stability, interdependence, prosperity and growth’. In areas of Rakhine less-affected by violence LIFT-funded projects continued to deliver strong results in 2017. Half of the 260 kilometres of embankments that protect more than 33,000 acres of paddy field from salt water intrusion and provide communities with cash for work were built in 2017. By the end of 2017 more than 1,600 Buddhist and Muslim youth had completed short courses on life skills. In 2017, 78 new voluntary savings and loan associations were formed delivering financial literacy and small loans. There was a sharp increase in the reach of microfinance to Rakhine communities and USD 10.4 million of loans were disbursed. Ninety-eight per cent of these clients are women.

6. Much-needed capital was injected into Myanmar’s microfinance market.

The enormous gap in the supply and access to financial services remains one of Myanmar’s most pressing development challenges. The volatility of Myanmar’s currency is an obstacle for attracting foreign investment in Myanmar’s microfinance market. In 2017, LIFT partnered with The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), a risk hedging facility that establishes a fixed exchange rate with investors, removing their risk of losses caused by fluctuations in Myanmar’s Kyat. LIFT’s investment of USD 10 million, which paid for hedging costs and fees, resulted in USD 80 million in debt financing—a significant injection to Myanmar’s microfinance market. Forty loans were issued by 11 lenders to 12 microfinance institutions.

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

Financial inclusion is LIFT’s largest programme. 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. In 2017, LIFT formed partnerships with eight new financial inclusion partners, bringing the total to 65 financial inclusion partners collectively reaching 2.1 million clients in 16,211 villages countrywide. The number of clients grew by almost 25 per cent in 2017. LIFT is committed to promoting and developing a rural financial market that is inclusive and tailored to meet the demands and needs of rural households, including the poor, women, landless, internally

displaced, farmers and small businesses. In 2017, financial services were rolled out in IDP camps in Kachin, in Rakhine and in Upland areas previously without access to financial services.

8. LIFT’s rural finance programme expanded with rural finance services that stimulate growth in the non-farm economy and value chains.

LIFT partnered with Yoma Bank and agriculture equipment dealers in 2016 to provide a hire purchase facility that enables smallholder farmers to access mechanised farm services from small businesses. By the end of 2017, LIFT’s USD 9 million investment had leveraged USD 87 million in financing by Yoma Bank for agricultural machinery valued at USD 106 million. The equipment financed includes almost 3,000 tractors, more than 700 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 expanded in 2017 to increase access to finance for actors in agriculture value chains. Three new un(der) secured financial products were launched. Discounted accounts receivable injected cash at the top of the value chain resulting in increased supply of inputs to farmers: USD 710,000 was disbursed to 1,130 farmers in 2017. Payable finance allowed dealers of farm inputs access to credit to purchase from suppliers: USD 68,000 was disbursed in 2017, benefitting around 200 farmers. Seasonal overdrafts were provided to small- and medium-sized maize traders to increase their capacity to trade and stimulate market expansion: USD 3.2 million was disbursed to maize traders, reaching an estimated 6,800 farmers.

9. LIFT’s migration programme became the largest funding window in Myanmar supporting safe and rewarding migration.

The USD 16 million programme works with 15 partners from the government, UN agencies, the private sector, microfinance institutions, job-matching platforms, academia, civil society organisations, mass media and INGOs to make the migration experience of men and women safe and empowering. One project that works with the garment industry in Yangon to develop industry-based skills training, job placements and systems to fight exploitation and gender-based violence made impressive progress in 2017. A training centre was quickly established and then expanded with the support of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) and two private sector factories established in-factory accredited training lines. Demand from government and factories for accredited vocational

training for garment workers has been greater than anticipated and additional funding was approved to expand the project, which will now train around 20,000 people. Another project works with female migrants trafficked into the sex industry, reaching around 40 women each week in Yangon's red-light areas, and in 2017 opened a safe house in Yangon for women who are supported with counselling and skills training.

10. LIFT expanded its nutrition support to mothers and children in the first 1,000 days of life.

LIFT has made a strategic commitment to increase investment in nutrition, focused on women and children in the first 1,000 days of life. In 2017, there was a notable increase in those reached with nutrition interventions in all zones, but particularly in Chin State where the government's first statewide MCCT delivery began in 2017, funded and supported by LIFT. In 2017, LIFT's four MCCT programmes delivered cash transfers to around 32,000 mothers, an increase of around 71 per cent compared to 2016. In the Delta, LIFT began piloting cash delivery to 800 mothers via mobile money as a more cost effective way of delivering cash. The pilot is showing good results and its impact on mothers' attendance at nutrition social and behaviour change communication sessions will be monitored in 2018. LIFT collaborated closely with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health and Sports as a USD 100 million International Development Association loan was agreed for nutrition. LIFT hosted visits and shared learnings from its MCCT experiences in Rakhine, the Delta, the Dry Zone and Chin State. The MoHS, with other ministries and the World Bank, are now designing an MCCT programme to focus on Shan State and the Ayeyarwady Region.

11. LIFT expanded its support to people with disabilities and the government rolled out elderly pensions, 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. The now-national social pension scheme provides all people aged over 90 with a monthly stipend of MMK 10,000 (USD 7), with plans to reduce the age ceiling to 85 years, and increase the number of elderly pensioners supported. LIFT also began supporting people with disabilities with a disability grant. More than 2,000 people with disabilities in the Dry Zone received the grant in 2017. The financial inclusion programme also supported people with disabilities with access to microfinance loans.

12. 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 2017 reaching 22 per cent of the overall

USD 68.38 million spent. This was mostly due to new processes agreed in 2016 to assist CSOs in fulfilling proposal requirements, the formation of LIFT's strategic partnerships and the establishment of the small grant funds in the Delta, Dry Zone and Uplands. LIFT's donors continue to see civil society partnerships as central to the next phase of LIFT.

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

In 2017, LIFT finalised and launched the gender strategy, developed an action plan and established a gender unit within the fund management office. Guidelines on gender-sensitive project formulation and planning were produced to guide LIFT's partners, who also participated in training delivered by LIFT on how to effectively mainstream gender in their projects. All programmes had notable successes on gender in 2017. In the Delta, for example, opportunities were identified for women to be integrated in the aquaculture sector and have control over resources.

14. LIFT continues to engage with government policy across its entire programme and many of its projects.

LIFT provided technical assistance to MoALI's Department of Planning for the Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan, 2018-2022, in particular to ensure wide engagement within MoALI and with other government agencies, development partners, civil society organisations and the private sector. Consultations were held in each of Myanmar's 17 states and regions through a collaboration between MoALI and two of LIFT's strategic partners, the Land Core Group (LCG) and the Food Security Working Group (FSWG)—the first national consultation process undertaken by MoALI. LIFT's 2016 collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support MoALI's proposal for substantial grant funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) resulted in MoALI being awarded a USD 27 million grant from GAFSP in 2017, which triggered an ADB concessional loan of USD 35 million. LIFT and partners engaged at the forefront of the many nutrition efforts in 2017, including the now finalised Multi-Sector National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS—NPAN). LIFT's partner PATH maintained focus on the much-needed National Rice Fortification Policy, with a comprehensive policy implication analysis undertaken with partners. PATH also successfully advocated for the introduction and scale-up of rice fortification in Myanmar with the Food Drug Administration (FDA). LIFT maintained its technical assistance support to MoALI's Department of Rural Development (DRD) at the union and township level through a 24-member team based in Nay Pyi Taw, supporting DRD on village development planning, investment programming, and the implementation of

community-driven small village infrastructure schemes and livelihood activities. More than 7,200 villages have been reached in 49 of the country's 298 rural townships, about 11 per cent of all rural villages. USD 21.7 million of government resources have been allocated for village development planning over four years demonstrating the government's commitment to this approach to local socio-economic development.

15. LIFT and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) form a new collaboration on land re-allocation.

In May 2017, MoALI's Department of Planning requested LIFT's support for the reclamation of unused concessions related to the Vacant Fallow Virgin Land law and their re-allocation to smallholder farmers. LIFT responded with exploratory assessments in Magway and Sagaing Regions to survey possible sites for reclamation. MoALI worked with a consulting team to design the basic components of a land reclamation pilot programme in Magway Region. In 2018, LIFT will contract a firm to support MoALI and the Magway regional government's implementation of the programme.

16. Value for money.

LIFT developed a set of value for money (VfM) framework and a set of guidelines in 2016 that details the criteria, measures and metrics that LIFT, its donors and implementing partners use to analyse programmes' and projects' economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity. VfM is evaluated throughout programmes' and projects' lifecycles—during design, mobilisation, delivery and closure stages. LIFT reported on VfM for the first time in 2016, analysing metrics from 37 projects in LIFT's geographic programmes. In 2017, 66 projects were assessed on VfM metrics in the geographic programmes, financial inclusion and migration programmes. In 2017, LIFT has also analysed selected programmes' economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity. In 2018, LIFT will continue to strengthen how it assesses VfM and will contract a VfM expert to support LIFT and implementing partners on VfM analysis.

17. Designing a new fund for post-2018.

A key recommendation of LIFT's Interim Review in 2016 was that LIFT should design a successor programme or fund during 2017. In June, LIFT's five major donors confirmed their commitment to a successor fund. During the second half of 2017, the Fund Board and the Fund Management Office worked to design a next phase for the fund. A subsequent phase for LIFT of 2019-2023 has been agreed, with indications of likely funding, and sector priorities identified. Detailed work is underway and a final strategy is expected to be approved in 2018.

Lessons Identified

LIFT continued to learn

LIFT's purpose statement is to strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor people in Myanmar. To deliver innovative programmes and strong results in line with this statement, LIFT aims to continually improve programme design and be responsive to the changing needs in Myanmar. Various mechanisms and tools support this, including project evaluations, communities of practice, technical consultation with outside expertise and analysis of research and evidence throughout the programme cycle. LIFT's Fund Board, Fund Management Office and implementing partners are committed to evaluating what works and what does not. Innovation and agility, alongside stability, continue to mark LIFT's work – with the learning continuing in 2017.

As a fund, LIFT was able to adapt and remain relevant

The Fund Management Office analysed projections versus delivery and adjusted fund flows, demonstrating an adaptiveness and pre-empting issues of concern whether financial or in project management. LIFT has regularly updated fund flows and identified funding available for programming. This has enabled LIFT to remain relevant, forward-looking and responsive to opportunities.

The addition of Government to LIFT's Fund Board was smooth and effective

As Myanmar's political landscape has evolved, LIFT has adapted how it engages with government. In 2016, LIFT sought government representation on the Fund Board; 2017 was therefore the first full year that the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) sat on LIFT's Fund Board alongside LIFT's five main donors. MoALI representatives have been supportive and engaged with LIFT, it has proved a useful forum for both LIFT and MoALI to discuss priorities, Government Fund Board representatives have provided timely feedback when required and the Fund Board's ability to achieve consensus on decisions has continued.

LIFT leveraged millions through innovative partnerships with the private sector

In 2016, LIFT explored new ways to work with the private sector. Recognising that satisfying the large unmet demand for capital in Myanmar's microfinance market was constrained by interest rate caps and currency volatility that deterred international investors, LIFT partnered with The Currency Exchange

(TCX) to address the issue of currency volatility. When TCX opened the Myanmar window it was quickly oversubscribed revealing that there were many international investors willing to invest in Myanmar's microfinance market once the currency volatility risk was removed. Through this initiative, LIFT was able to open the door for much-needed capital injection into Myanmar's microfinance market. As a result, a second round of funding to TCX is under consideration.

LIFT's investment in mechanisation exceeded expectations

The Agribusiness Finance Programme (AFP), a machinery hire purchase project, started with Yoma Bank mid-2016. LIFT's partial risk guarantee of USD 9 million allowed Yoma Bank to undertake lending it would not have done alone; LIFT's investment has leveraged USD 87 million in financing for agriculture machinery by Yoma Bank. The demand for machinery was even higher than expected and there remains unmet demand. The partnership has also led to further innovation by Yoma Bank who are now piloting digital financial platforms to reach rural communities. LIFT has found that partnerships with the private sector lead to these organisations learning how to reach rural communities with products and services in a sustainable way.

Working in areas emerging from conflict requires a nuanced approach

In 2017, LIFT expanded its work in areas emerging from conflict. Our ability to be effective depended on identifying local partners in these areas who could advise on the context, allowing longer inception periods, recognising the challenges in recruiting project staff with the required technical skills for areas emerging from conflict, and allowing sufficient time for the seasonality of agricultural projects.

LIFT listened to partners, worked collectively and responded effectively in Rakhine

LIFT has an established presence in Rakhine State, working with all stakeholders and for all communities. The conflict and violence in August 2017 affected the projects of several of LIFT's partners, particularly in central and northern Rakhine State. The Fund Board engaged in regular meetings with partners to increase understanding, monitor progress, reassess opportunities and support flexible and rolling planning – so that projects could maintain operations and results for beneficiaries in conflict-affected areas. LIFT worked closely with the wider international development and humanitarian community in Myanmar and supported shared common principles and approaches. LIFT provided new support to Rakhine with a USD 10 million call for proposals in December 2017, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable, with new and expanded projects selected. LIFT

continues to engage with the Rakhine State Government, civil society and the public to raise awareness that LIFT's work is inclusive and delivers benefits for all communities.

LIFT's funds and programmes moved to where the poor will be

The movement of people from rural to urban areas has accelerated rapidly in Myanmar in recent years. This dynamic was observed through LIFT's programmes in rural areas and evidenced by research from Michigan State University, funded by LIFT, on rural labour and the rural transition. LIFT responded with a USD 16 million Migration Programme, taking LIFT into urban areas for the first time.

LIFT applied MCCT experience to working with government as a partner on the Chin nutrition project

LIFT's first nutrition maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) project began in 2014 in Rakhine State. It was initially a small pilot project designed for learning before considering further initiatives. In 2016, LIFT started MCCT projects in the Delta and the Dry Zone. The Dry Zone MCCT was set up to test different modalities of delivery and includes a randomised control trial; early data shows, perhaps not surprisingly, that cash transfers without social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on nutrition are far less effective at achieving positive nutrition outcomes than cash coupled with this SBCC. When the government proposed to deliver maternal and child cash transfers in Chin State, LIFT responded by partnering with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) on the Chin MCCT programme, building on LIFT's experience in delivering MCCT programmes in the Delta, Rakhine and Dry Zone. The Chin State's remote, mountainous environment provides challenges for delivering cash transfers, but by the end of 2017, baseline research was completed, women were registered and they had received their first cash payments.

LIFT learned from failure

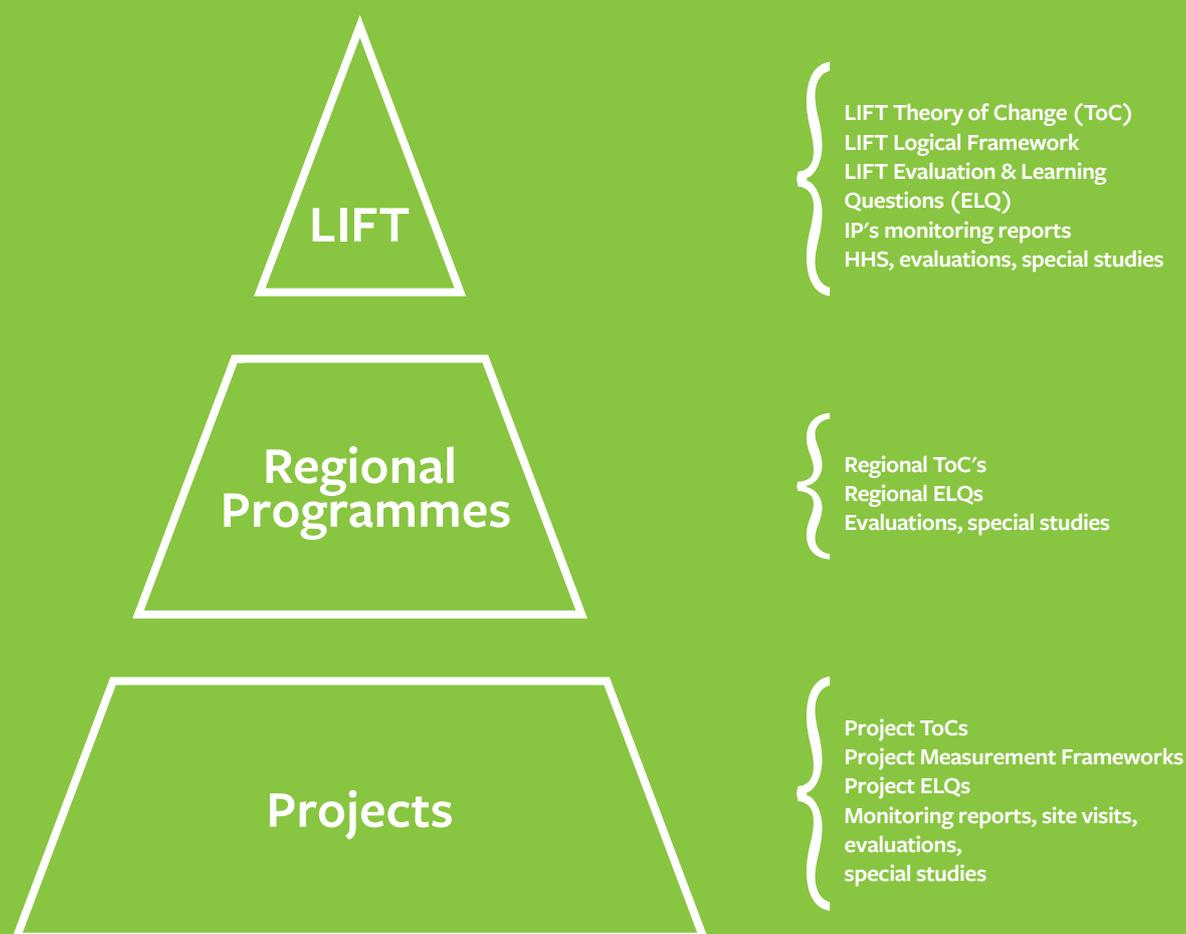
When projects do not work so well, LIFT seeks to support but does not avoid difficult decisions when necessary, including early closure. By example, one project with the private sector experienced difficulties when key personnel were lost early in the project cycle, yet the skills of the personnel were crucial to the project's success. LIFT worked with the project to replace personnel and continued with implementation; however the project suffered without the skills and people intended for the project. In future circumstances, LIFT would seek to pause projects in similar difficulties. The project closed early in 2017.







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 9.8.

◀ **Figure 2.1**
Overview of MEAL
framework

2.1 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 Engagement (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.

2.2 LIFT's Logical Framework

In consultation with Fund Board members, FMO staff, implementing partners (IPs), and various technical experts, LIFT revised its logical framework in 2015 to reflect LIFT's 2014-2018 strategy. Based on the strategy and its corresponding theory of change, LIFT's logframe now consists of four purpose-level outcome statements, each measured by two to four indicators. These purpose-level indicators capture income levels, income diversity, asset ownership, resilience, food

security, diet diversity, child stunting, and public policy and budget allocation/spending changes.

The current logframe also has eight programme-level outcome statements, each measured by two to six specific indicators that include both outreach and outcome-type indicators. LIFT captures a wide range of programme-level indicators including 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 LIFT's indicator results and achievements

LIFT's overall accomplishments are reported against the indicators and targets listed in its 2015-2018 logical framework. The data for most outreach indicators is provided by LIFT's implementing partners every six months. The outreach data listed below is cumulative from 2010 to December 2017.

Most of the outcome indicator data below is derived from the LIFT 2017 Household Survey, which consists of a representative sample of 6,860 households. Of the households surveyed, 16 per cent were female-headed.

To obtain the number of households for relevant outcome indicators, household survey results are extrapolated to the relevant number of households LIFT reached in 2017. In recognition of the growing importance of LIFT's quickly expanding financial inclusion programme, the sample size for the 2017 Household Survey was nearly doubled, so survey results could be disaggregated by the "core" programme area (tier 1), representative at the regional level, and the areas where only microfinance activities are operational (tier 2), representative at the national level, and then extrapolated to the appropriate number of households reached in each. Tier 1 and tier 2 achievements are then added together to obtain the achievement of 2017, which is then added to LIFT's 2010-2016 achievements. For 2017, the adjusted number of households reached in tier 1 is 176,998 households⁵ and in tier 2 is 1,414,206 households⁶. To obtain the number of female-headed households for an indicator, the gender specific survey result was extrapolated to 16 per cent of the total number of households reached in 2017⁷. To convert the number of households to number of people, household numbers are multiplied by 4.4, which is the average number of people in a household as determined in both LIFT household surveys and the Myanmar 2014 census.

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 2015 (baseline) are subtracted from one another and the resulting differences extrapolated to the relevant number of households reached in 2017. To do this, it is assumed that the 2015 baseline results apply to the newly sampled areas in the 2017 Household Survey.

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.

Purpose-level

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

Outcome 1

Increased incomes of rural households

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
1.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income	491,164 F 67,575 M 423,589	315,077 F 41,519 M 273,558	806,241 F 109,094 M 697,147	500,000	161	HHS
1.2 Per cent of households in LIFT villages below the poverty line	N/A	13.7%* F 28.35% M 10.8%	N/A	21%	135	HHS

1.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income

In 2017, and in LIFT's new programme areas, 17 per cent of households surveyed reported to have increased their income in the past 12 months, which when extrapolated to both tier 1 and 2 is an estimated 315,100 households. There was a moderate difference between male- and female-headed households in 2017, where only 14 per cent of female-headed households reported to have increased incomes as compared to 18 per cent of male-headed households.

When combined with the number of households to have reported an increase in income in LIFT programme areas previous to 2017, LIFT has contributed to increasing the incomes of an estimated total of 806,000 households, **achieving 161 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone.**

1.2 Percentage of households in LIFT villages below the poverty line

Although not part of LIFT's previous logframe, LIFT measured poverty line estimates in both 2013 and 2015 based on consumption aggregates of USD 1.25 per day. As recommended by the World Bank, LIFT now uses the new international extreme poverty line of USD 1.90 per day. In addition, LIFT has updated its methodology for calculating consumption aggregates to reflect the approach used by World Bank/GouM as closely as possible. As a result and adjusting for inflation, LIFT recalculated both 2015 and 2017 poverty line estimates. ►

As shown above, the proportion of households living below the poverty line has decreased by 4.2 percentage points, from 17.9 in 2015 to 13.7 in 2017. In both years, a substantially larger proportion of female-headed households were living below the poverty line, even though the proportion declined amongst both sexes. As a result of the overall decline, LIFT achieved 135 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone. These findings will be explored more fully in the LIFT 2017 Household Survey report, as well as in the LIFT Income and Asset Study.

▲ Table 2.1
Purpose-level
Outcome 1

*Provisional and is currently being verified with other data sources.

HHS
LIFT Household Survey

Percentage of households below poverty line
(USD1.90/day)

2015	17.9 F 31.5 M 15.2
2017	13.7 F 28.35 M 10.8

Outcome 2

Decreased vulnerability of rural households and communities to shocks, stresses and adverse trends

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
2.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased asset ownership	522,233 F 72,004 M 450,229	236,072 F 35,812 M 200,260	758,305 F 107,816 M 650,489	540,000	140	HHS
2.2 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased income diversity score	N/A	342,109	342,109	100,000	342	HHS
2.3 Number of people whose resilience has been improved and ability to cope has increased	1,966,012 F 226,921 M 1,739,091	1,778,127 F 247,676 M 1,530,451	3,744,139 F 474,597 M 3,269,542	2,200,000	170	HHS

▲ Table 2.2

Purpose-level
Outcome 2

HHS
LIFT Household Survey

2.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with increased asset ownership

In 2017, combined results from tier 1 and tier 2 show 13 per cent of those surveyed reported that their assets increased in the past 12 months which, when extrapolated to those reached in both areas, is an estimated 236,000 households. Of these, only 11 per cent of the female-headed households reported an increase in assets compared to 14 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 nearly 760,000 households, which is 140 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

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. Not all diversification represents a positive trend; but overall, there is a strong positive correlation between increased income diversity and positive changes to 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. Thus, a household earning 60 per cent of its income from agriculture, 20 per cent from home-based store sales and 20 per cent from remittances would have a more favourable diversity index than a household that earned 90 per cent of its income from agriculture and 10 per cent from remittances. The diversity index is represented on a scale from 0 to 1, with a higher number indicating a higher degree of diversification.

Based on comparisons between income diversity measured at baseline in 2015 and 2017, income diversity increased from 0.34 to 0.42.

Over half of households saw their livelihood diversity increase (51 per cent) while just under a third (29 per cent) saw their diversity decrease, resulting in an overall net gain of households whose diversity increased 21.5 per cent. When extrapolated to households reached by LIFT in both tiers 1 and 2, an estimated 342,100 households have experienced greater income diversification since 2015. Thus, LIFT has achieved 342 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone. Preliminary analysis, which will be further explored in an in-depth vulnerability study in late 2018, shows that households reporting exposure to LIFT interventions were more likely to see positive changes in income diversification.

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

As part of LIFT's current logframe, and in recognition of receiving additional funding from DFID's International Climate Fund (ICF), LIFT added the indicator, '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 increases/decreases in income, assets and/or food availability in the past 12 months. In 2017, there was an increase of 23 per cent of all those surveyed whose resilience had increased, which when extrapolated to those reached in 2017 is about 404,000 households, or almost 1.8 million individuals. When added to LIFT's previous achievement in this indicator, an estimated 3.7 million people's resilience has increased over the past 12 months and in doing so, LIFT achieved 170 per cent of its 2017 milestone. However, there continued to be a marked difference, albeit less than in 2016, between male- and female-headed households, where only 19 per cent of female-headed households increased their resilience compared to 24 per cent of male-headed households.

Outcome 3

Improved nutrition of women and children

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
3.1 Number of households in LIFT villages with an acceptable dietary diversity score	325,723 F 65,316 M 260,407	106,242 F 11,008 M 95,234	431,965 F 76,324 M 355,641	360,000	120	HHS
3.2 Number of households in LIFT villages with 12 months of adequate household food provisioning	492,435 F 105,023 M 387,412	0	492,435 F 105,023 M 387,412	520,000	95	HHS
3.3 Per cent of moderately/severely stunted children <5 years in LIFT villages	N/A	22%*	N/A	27%	120	HHS
3.4 Proportion of children under 5 years with diarrhoea in previous 2 weeks	N/A	17.4%	N/A	17%	98	HHS

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

Beginning in 2015, LIFT shifted from measuring an average dietary diversity score to 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 2017, 70 per cent of households measured a score of six and above, indicating acceptable dietary diversity, compared to 64 per cent in 2015. When extrapolated to all those reached by LIFT in 2017, there was an increase in an estimated 106,000 households having acceptable food dietary diversity scores, which, when combined with LIFT's 2016 achievement, is nearly 432,000 households, or 120 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

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

From 2015 to 2017, there was a drop from 96 per cent to 86 per cent in households reporting to have had sufficient food in the past 12 months. However, over the life of LIFT nearly 500,000 households have increased their food security, which is 95 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone. Nevertheless, this decrease in food security will be investigated further in LIFT's in-depth nutrition study, looking specifically at regional and seasonal variations in the survey data.

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

There have been sharp decreases in moderate and severe stunting rates in children under 5 years. In LIFT's programme areas, the stunting rate dropped from 32 per cent in 2013 to 29 per cent in 2015. However, in LIFT's new programme areas only, the stunting rate dropped from 27.6 per cent in 2015 to 22 per cent in 2017. With this latest rate, LIFT has achieved 120 per cent of its 2017 milestone. However, the 2017 result is provisional and is currently being verified with other data sources.

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

According to LIFT's household surveys, there was a slight decrease in diarrhoea rates in LIFT programme areas from 20 per cent in 2015 to 17.4 per cent in 2017. Thus, LIFT achieved 98 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone. Despite the decrease, this result will be further investigated in a LIFT in-depth nutrition study, since it is still considerably higher than the 10 per cent national level measured in the 2016 Demographic Health Survey.

▲ Table 2.3
Purpose-level
Outcome 3

*Provisional and is currently
being verified with other
data sources.

HHS
LIFT Household Survey

Outcome 4

Improved policies and effective public expenditure for pro-poor development

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
4.1 Number and type of public policy and programme changes supported by LIFT	20	15	35	22	159	FMO, IPs
4.2 Number and type of changes in public rural development budgets supported by LIFT	5	13	18	6	300	FMO, IPs

▲ Table 2.4

Purpose-level
Outcome 4

FMO

Fund Management Office

IP

Implementing Partners

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

In 2015, LIFT began tracking the number and type of public sector policy and programme changes it supports, both at the FMO and IP levels. Since 2015, LIFT has supported a total of 35 changes, achieving 159 per cent of its 2017 milestone. In 2017 alone, FMO supported three public sector policy and programme changes and IPs supported another 12 changes.⁸ Examples include:

Nutrition multi-sectoral approach: LIFT has long advocated for increased public investments to improve maternal and young infant nutrition during the crucial first 1,000 days. LIFT has also advocated for a more comprehensive cross-sectoral approach for improving nutrition outcomes, recognising that nutrition is not only a health issue; agriculture, education, and social welfare also impact on nutrition outcomes. LIFT played a key role supporting the State Counsellor's recognition of the importance of the 1,000 days approach as well as her decision to establish an interministerial coordination body under the direction of the Ministry of Health and Sports. LIFT has actively participated in the development of the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN).

Chin State MCCT: LIFT continued to collaborate with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and the Chin State Government to launch the Chin State maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) programme in 2017, which is the first statewide MCCT programme to be implemented by DSW. LIFT, in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children, also contributed to helping DSW convene a social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) task force that includes the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) and the Health Literacy Promotion Unit (HLPU) from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS). LIFT

also collaborated with UNICEF and Save the Children to convene a monitoring and evaluation committee for the MCCT programme.

Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS): Since September 2016, a team of national and international consultants mobilised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and LIFT worked under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI) to help formulate the agriculture development strategy (ADS). The team consulted broadly with MoALI, other government agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector. In 2017, LIFT helped extend the consultation process to the regions and states to broaden the views captured and ensure the ADS was aligned with local agricultural plans. This was the first national consultation process undertaken by MoALI.

Community Animal Health Worker Policy: The LIFT-supported FAO livestock project has helped develop a community animal health worker (CAHW) policy that was approved in 2017. The Livestock, Veterinary and Breeding Department now has a clear national policy direction recognising the role of CAHWs. This policy is accepted by all key stakeholders. The project is now working to develop guidelines to operationalise the policy. FAO has expanded their CAHW work to 28 townships in the seven states and regions, enabling the project to gauge the impact of the CAHW policy across the country.

Other IP-led public sector and programme changes in 2017 included HelpAge International's efforts in helping form a National Committee on Ageing (NCOA), which met for the first time in October; PATH's work on the first draft of the National Rice Fortification Policy, and Land Core Group's advocacy efforts to establish a National Land Use Council and to revise the Land Acquisition Act.

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.

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

In 2015, under its revised logframe, LIFT began tracking the number and type of changes it has supported in public sector/rural development budget allocation and spending. Since 2015, LIFT has supported a total of 18 such changes, achieving 300 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

In 2017, LIFT continued to play an important role influencing sector and rural development budget allocations and spending in the areas of agriculture, rural development, social protection and nutrition. In 2017 alone, FMO supported four budget-related changes and IPs supported a further nine such changes.⁹ Examples include:

Government MCCT Financing: In April 2017, DSW received a total of MMK 7,745 million (USD 5.8 million) for FY2017-18 to begin implementing a MCCT programme in Rakhine State. DSW received an additional MMK 536 million (USD 400,000) for MCCT programming in Naga Self-Administrative Area under Sagaing region beginning in FY2017-18. DSW is designing its MCCT programming based on the model developed in Chin State with LIFT's support. Beginning in FY2019-20, the government will also support the Chin State MMCT programme with government resources.

Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP): LIFT provided considerable technical input and collaborated closely with the ADB and FAO to help MoALI develop a programme funding proposal that was submitted to the GAFSP. In March 2017, the Myanmar government was awarded a GAFSP grant of USD 27 million. The GAFSP project will target its support to women and rural poor households in the central Dry Zone who are landless or are farming less than 2 hectares of land. The project will cover up to eight townships. The selection of townships will be defined through a participatory, pro-poor, gender-inclusive approach.

ADS Investment Plan: During the second half of 2017, LIFT national ADS consultants played a lead role in drafting a five-year investment plan to accompany the ADS. The team engaged directly with each of the departments at MoALI to promote broad-based ownership of the process and to ensure that the allocation of public resources accurately reflects the programming priorities outlined in the ADS.

Social Pensions for the Elderly: LIFT's partner HelpAge International (HPI) worked closely with the Department of Social Welfare to help enact the Myanmar Elders Law and roll-out social pensions for the elderly. In April 2017, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MoSWRR) received MMK 4,942 million (USD 3.6 million) funding from the government budget for FY2017-2018 to provide social pension cash transfers to people who are 90 years and older. The social pension

scheme is the first government-sponsored cash transfer programme for the elderly.

Government purchase of fortified rice: LIFT's partner PATH works to develop sustainable markets for fortified rice. Because of PATH's work, in 2017 DSW used government funding to replace standard rice with fortified rice in nursery school lunches at more than 50 schools across nine regions. School staff members are measuring the children on a monthly basis, of which the early results will be available in September 2018.

National livestock survey: LIFT's support for the FAO's Dry Zone Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing Project enabled the project to complete a livestock survey in the project's six target townships. The project also provided technical assistance to the LBVD to conduct a livestock survey in eight townships in Mandalay Region. In April 2017, the government allocated USD 1 million to conduct the first national livestock survey in early 2018.

Village Development Planning (VDP): Since 2014, LIFT FMO has helped the Department of Rural Development (DRD) develop a national model for village development planning (VDP) and investment programming that contributes to the government's 'bottom-up' planning and budgeting strategy. By the end of 2016, 130 township DRD officers had been trained on VDP methodologies and they in turn trained village resident planners to collect data and help produce village development plans. In 2017, DRD assisted villages to implement the priority projects they had identified. These projects are aligned with township development budgets for 2017-18 through an online VDP database. LIFT's team assisted DRD to aggregate village plans into township investment planning. Each village receives an allocation of MMK 10 million (USD 7,380). Communities also contribute their own resources to support priority projects.

The VDP recently underwent a final evaluation. Findings show that DRD underwent considerable institutional strengthening for bottom-up planning; however, the evaluation also revealed several concerns including the selection of villages plans to be funded, the collection, storage and use of an extensive amount of data, and the lack of coordination between various donor agencies and DRD regarding community planning efforts.

⁹ 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.

Programme-level

Outcome 1

Increased sustainable agriculture and farm-based production by smallholder farmers

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
1.1 Number of LIFT households reached by advisory services	163,898 F 52,392 M 111,506	39,386 F 14,919 M 24,467	203,284 F 67,311 M 135,973	177,000	115	IPs
1.2 Number of households in LIFT villages who trial and/or adopt improved practices, inputs and technologies	265,228 F 37,975 M 227,253	60,162 F 9,432 M 50,730	325,390 F 47,407 M 277,983	285,000	114	HHS
1.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in productivity—crops only	202,193 F 27,609 M 174,584	90,208 F 12,579 M 77,629	292,401 F 40,188 M 252,213	217,000	135	HHS

▲ Table 2.5
Programme-level
Outcome 1

HHS
LIFT Household Survey
IP
Implementing Partner

Partners for advisory services in 2017

CARE
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN)
Choklei Organization for Rural and Agriculture (CORAD)
Food Security Working Group (FSWG)
Gender Working Group (GEN)
Golden Plain
Group de Recheres et d'Echanges
Technologiques (GRET)
International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
Mercy Corps
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)
Radanar Ayar
WeltHungerhilfe (WHH)
World Vision
Terre des Hommes (TDH)
The Border Consortium (TBC)

1.1 Number of LIFT households reached by advisory services

From the start of LIFT's programmes in 2010, 40 implementing partners report having reached a cumulative total of about 203,000 households with advisory services, of which 33 per cent were female-headed households. Given this achievement, LIFT achieved 115 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

In 2017, 18 partners reported having reached nearly 39,500 households in LIFT's programme areas. Examples of their work include:

- ↓ Through their farm advisory services, the IWMI project in the Dry Zone provided information to smallholder farmers on seed selection, crops, alternative cropping patterns, fertiliser and pesticide usage.
- ↓ Also in the Dry Zone, Golden Plain worked with smallholder farmers on applying green manure, to improve organic matter, nutrients, and moisture in the soil.
- ↓ As part of the Uplands programme, CRS trained farmers in various agronomic practices, including crop spacing, intercropping of maize and pulses, and the use of fertiliser.
- ↓ Also in the Uplands programme, CORAD provided technical support to farmers in integrated pest management, systems of rice intensification, compost, soil and water conservation, seed production, and slash and mulch experimentation.
- ↓ In the Delta programme, WHH/GRET's farm advisory service delivered theoretical sessions and farmer-to-farmer exchanges on topics such as local seed production, off-season vegetable production, and the use of agro-ecological practices like natural fertilisers.
- ↓ Mercy Corps, also part of the Delta 3 programme, involved a private sector company in providing advisory services on the appropriate use of fertiliser to farmers on demonstration plots.
- ↓ In the Rakhine Tat Lan programme, IRC and Save the Children provided advisory services to farmers through on-call services,

demonstration plots in seed production and multiplication, and in the production and use of natural fertilisers.

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 2017, eight 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, with eight per cent for male-headed households and seven per cent for female-headed households. When extrapolated to all households reached in 2017, nearly 60,200 households are estimated to have trialled and/or adopted improved practices, inputs and technologies, which when combined with LIFT's previous achievement means that LIFT has achieved 114 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone. Please note that this is the adoption rate among all survey participants, and not just of those who received training or advisory services.

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

In the 2017 survey, an average of 53 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 11 per cent reported an increase in major crop productivity in any growing season when compared to an average season. There was a slight difference between male- and female-headed households, where 11 per cent male-headed households and 10 per cent female-headed households reported an increase in crop productivity.

When extrapolated to those reporting to have grown crops in 2017, about 90,200 households are estimated to have had an increase in major crop productivity in 2017. When combined with LIFT's previous achievement in this indicator, LIFT achieved 135 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

Outcome 2

Improved market access and market terms for smallholder farmers

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
2.1 Number of LIFT households who are members of functional producer groups	53,382 F 15,315 M 38,067	11,150 F 4,385 M 6,765	64,532 F 19,700 M 44,832	72,000	90	IPs
2.2 Number of LIFT households adopting new marketing practices	10,868 F 885 M 9,983	4,627 F 437 M 4,190	15,495 F 1,322 M 14,173	13,000	119	HHS
2.3 Number of households in LIFT villages securing higher returns (profit) from agriculture/livestock/fishery activities	185,674 F 16,127 M 169,547	299,170 F 32,514 M 266,656	484,844 F 48,641 M 436,203	200,000	242	HHS

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

Partners reported that nearly 65,000 households were, or had become, members of producer groups since 2010, of which 19,700, or roughly 31 per cent, were female-headed households. Partners reporting the highest numbers include Mercy Corps (16,125 households), Oxfam (8,000 households), ActionAid (6,000 households), CESVI (3,500 households) and Proximity Design (3,200 households). Of these, nearly 11,200 households were members in 2017, many of whom were organised by CORAD in the Uplands programme. For this indicator, LIFT achieved 90 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

By far the most common type of groups are agricultural and livestock producers. Examples of groups' activities in 2017 include:

- ‡ WHH/GRET in the Delta helped form producers' organisations that deliver services along the paddy value chain.
- ‡ World Vision Myanmar, also in the Delta, helped form piglet and duck producer groups, where members received training in duck and pig raising techniques, disease awareness, and the use of vaccines.
- ‡ MercyCorps formed farm production enterprises, which used their own resources to ensure adequate storage facilities for paddy, and a seed producer enterprise.
- ‡ The Radanar Ayar project helped organise their unique model of 'farmer pools', for identifying seed growers, seed production sites and establishing revolving funds.
- ‡ CORAD helped establish and develop groups that produce grapes and wine, onions and potatoes, and introduced them to market and value chain development.

2.2 Number of LIFT households adopting new marketing practices

By the nature of LIFT's programmes, this indicator applies to tier 1 only. In 2017 and in tier 1, 11 per cent of those surveyed reported to have received LIFT-supported training in agriculture, livestock, fishery or aquaculture. Of those trained, 24 per cent reported to have adopted new marketing practices in the past 12 months, with 24 per cent male-headed households and 22 per cent female-headed households. When extrapolated to households reached in tier 1 in 2017, about 4,600 households are estimated to have adopted new marketing practices which, when combined with LIFT's previous achievement, is 119 per cent of the 2017 milestone.

In 2017, the top new marketing practices mentioned, in order of frequency, were: negotiating a better price; selling sorted products based on quality; selling at a different time, and selling to a new or different market.

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 core and microfinance-only programme areas are as follows: ►

Thus, and after eliminating duplication, 17 per cent of households reported to have secured higher returns in the past 12 months from any of these livelihood activities, with 18 per cent for male-headed households and 12 per cent for female-headed households. When extrapolated to all those reached by LIFT in 2017, nearly 300,000 households are estimated to have secured higher returns which, when combined with LIFT's previous achievement, is 242 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

▲ Table 2.6
Programme-level
Outcome 2

HHS
LIFT Household Survey
IP
Implementing Partner

Percentage of
households reporting
higher returns

Crops	10.25
Livestock	6.85
Fish	2.26

Outcome 3

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

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
3.1 Number of LIFT households supported in non-agricultural skills development	33,065 F 20,507 M 12,558	17,153 F 10,120 M 7,033	50,218 F 30,627 M 19,591	53,000	95	IPs
3.2 Number of trained people who establish their own enterprises or become employed	78,999 F 33,178 M 45,821	889 F 541 M 348	79,888 F 33,719 M 46,169	88,000	91	IPs
3.3 Number of households in LIFT villages with an increase in income from non-agricultural activities	277,233 F 35,503 M 241,730	212,355 F 23,772 M 188,583	489,588 F 59,275 M 430,313	290,000	169	HHS

▲ Table 2.7
Programme-level
Outcome 3

HHS
LIFT Household Survey
IP
Implementing Partner

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

From 2010 to 2017, 30 implementing partners reported training or supporting a total of 50,218 individuals, of whom 61 per cent were women, in non-agricultural skills development, where one individual represents one household. LIFT achieved 95 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone.

In 2017 alone, more than 17,000 households were supported in non-agricultural skills development. Examples include:

- ‡ MercyCorps, as part of the Delta 3 programme, provided vocational training in mechanics, carpentry, masonry, as well as garment manufacturing in cooperation with the Myanmar Garment Manufacture Association (MGMA) training centre and Business Kind Myanmar.
- ‡ MercyCorps and Swiss Contact offered hospitality training in their Hotel Training Initiative project.
- ‡ The Land Core Group provided land registration process trainings to CSOs and members of parliament, followed by a series of training sessions with farmers.
- ‡ CARE, in a consortium with Pyoe Pin and Business Kind Myanmar, provided skills training in the garment industry, in line with the National Occupational Competency Standards.

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

From 2010 to the end of 2017, 21 partners reported supporting nearly 80,000 people who then established their own enterprises or became employed, of whom 42 per cent were women. Thus, in 2017, LIFT reached 91 per cent of this indicator's milestone.

In 2017, partners training and helping people establish their own enterprises or gain employment included ActionAid, Eden, IERG, ILO, LEAD, TAG, and World Vision. LEAD provided 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 helped women group members in establishing poultry and rice-related enterprises, and cloth, grocery and snack-making shops. EDEN trained and employed victims of human trafficking in EDEN's jewellery social enterprise.

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

In 2017, an average of 12 per cent of households surveyed in tier 1 and tier 2 reported that their income had increased from non-agricultural activities, with 12 per cent for male-headed households and 10 per cent for female-headed households. When extrapolated to all those reached by LIFT in 2017, 212,355 households are estimated to have increased their non-agricultural income. When combined with LIFT's achievements from 2010–2016, LIFT accomplished 169 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

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

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
4.1 Number of LIFT MFIs financially self-sustaining	12	8	20	14	143	IPs
4.2 Number of LIFT households with access to financial services (active clients)	1,635,932 F 1,532,961 M 102,971	496,515 F 377,564 M 118,951	2,132,447 F 1,910,525 M 221,922	1,750,000	122	IPs

4.1 Number of LIFT MFIs financially self-sustaining

In 2017, LIFT supported 65 microfinance partners, including 10 local microfinance organisations, 40 credit cooperatives, 14 international microfinance NGOs, and one private bank. Of these microfinance partners, 20 are now financially self-sustaining, i.e. covering operational costs by income after adjusting for financial costs and inflation. See Chapter 4.1 on financial inclusion for more detail. For this indicator, LIFT achieved 143 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

4.2 Number of LIFT households with access to financial services

Since 2011, LIFT's assistance to households through its microfinance partners, at both the financial and institutional levels, has grown rapidly. By the end of 2017, MFI partners had provided financial services, primarily in the form of loans, to 2.1 million clients, of whom 89.5 per cent were women. This is an increase of nearly 500,000 clients since the end of 2016, for an achievement of 122 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

▲ Table 2.8
Programme-level
Outcome 4

IP
Implementing Partner

Outcome 5

Improved nutrition, sanitation and hygiene practices

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
5.1 Number of LIFT households reached with nutrition sensitive information	127,844 F 94,621 M 33,223	85,434 F 77,483 M 7,951	213,278 F 172,104 M 41,174	200,000	107	IPs
5.2 Number of people with awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children	N/A	172,953 F 113,640 M 59,313	172,953 F 113,640 M 59,313	140,000	124	HHS
5.3 Number of children 6–23 months with “acceptable” dietary diversity	N/A	9,313 Girls 4,826 Boys 4,487	9,313 Girls 4,826 Boys 4,487	10,764 ¹⁰	87	HHS
5.4 Number of infants (0–5 months of age) who received only breast milk during the previous 24 hours	N/A	5,080 Girls 2,551 Boys 2,529	5,080 Girls 2,551 Boys 2,529	6,696 ¹¹	76	HHS
5.5 Number of households in LIFT villages using safely managed sanitation services	219,850 F 45,627 M 174,223	3,603 F 0 M 3,603	223,453 F 45,627 M 177,826	250,000	89	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	0	165,844 F 54,296 M 111,548	210,000	79	HHS

▲ Table 2.9
Programme-level
Outcome 5

HHS
LIFT Household Survey
IP
Implementing Partner

5.1 Number of LIFT households reached with nutrition sensitive information

From the start of LIFT’s programmes in 2010, 25 partners and the Department of Social Welfare report reaching more than 213,000 households with nutrition-sensitive information, mostly through health and nutrition training sessions that have evolved over time to focus more on nutrition. Slightly more than 80 per cent of participants were women and it is assumed that one participant represents one household. LIFT partners report that in 2017 alone about 36,500 households received maternal and child cash transfers (MCCTs), which is almost 29,000 more MCCT recipients than in 2016. In addition, since 2010 more than 165,000 households participated in health and nutrition training sessions. With this accomplishment, LIFT achieved 107 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

In 2017, MCCT projects continued to be a major focus of LIFT’s strategy, with Save the Children in both the Delta 3 and Dry Zone programmes providing MCCTs and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC). In addition, implementing partners trained health workers, community members and MCCT committees in intensive SBCC on infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices, household water and sanitation, and ante- and post-natal care. In addition, mother-to-mother groups are promoting good nutrition and health-seeking behaviours among pregnant and breastfeeding women.

In addition to LIFT’s on-going nutrition

projects, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) began distributing MCCT in Chin State with LIFT financial and technical support. In its first year of operation, DSW provided cash and nutrition information to nearly 13,600 households, as well as trained 1,140 health staff, including auxiliary mid-wives and community health workers.

Although not included in this particular indicator on nutrition-sensitive information, LIFT also supported the distribution of fortified rice to an estimated 96,514 households.

5.2 Number of people with awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children

Starting in 2015 mothers and fathers of children under the age of two years are asked four basic questions regarding infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in the household survey’s nutrition questionnaire. If they answer all four questions correctly, they are considered to be aware of the nutritional needs of women and children. The results from the 2015 and 2017 are as follows:

	2015 %	2017 %	Change %
Fathers	3.9	24.3	20.4
Mothers	22.8	42.5	19.7

Although overall levels remain low, there have been considerable increases in correct knowledge of IYCF practices—20 per cent for

¹⁰ Original target incorrectly calculated for children under 5 years old. When recalculated for children 6–23 months old, revised target is 10,764 children.

¹¹ Original target incorrectly calculated for children under 5 years old. When recalculated for infants 0–5 months old, revised target is 6,696 infants.

both fathers and mothers. When extrapolated to adults in households reached in tier 1, it is estimated that in 2017 nearly 173,000 people were aware of the nutritional needs of women and children, which is 124 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

5.3 Number of children 6-23 months with 'acceptable' dietary diversity

In LIFT's 2015 baseline survey, 26 per cent of children aged 6-23 months were found to have an acceptable dietary diversity score of four or above. In the 2017 survey, the proportion increased to 44 per cent, with almost an equal amount of boys and girls. With 44 per cent extrapolated to children aged 6-23 months in households reached in tier 1, 9,313 children are estimated to have acceptable dietary diversity, which is 87 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

5.4 Number of infants (0-5 months of age) who received only breast milk during the previous 24 hours

In LIFT's 2015 baseline survey, 47 per cent of infants aged 0-5 months were found to have been exclusively breastfed in the previous 24 hours. In the 2017 survey, the proportion increased to 68 per cent. With 68 per cent extrapolated to infants aged 0-5 months in households reached in tier one, 5,100 infants are estimated to have been exclusively breastfed in the previous 24 hours, which achieves 76 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

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

By the nature of LIFT's programmes, this indicator applies to tier 1 only. In 2017, 80 per cent of households reported to use safely managed sanitation services, up from 79 per cent in 2015. With this one per cent increase, an additional 3,600 households are estimated to be using safely managed sanitation services in tier 1. Thus, LIFT's cumulative achievement in 2017 increased to nearly 223,500 households, which is 89 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

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

This indicator applies to tier 1 only due to the nature of LIFT's water and sanitation programming. In 2015, 77 per cent of households surveyed reported to use safely managed and protected drinking water services, with the same percentage for both male- and female-headed households. This proportion dropped to 72 per cent in 2017, with nearly the same percentage for male and female-headed households. With this drop and overall, there were no additional households measured using safely managed and protected drinking water services in 2017. Thus, LIFT achieved 79 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone. It is important to note that this indicator includes "improved water sources", as similar to the

Sustainable Development Goals, plus protected ponds which are promoted primarily in LIFT's Dry Zone programme.

When looking more closely at the survey data, it appears that about 300 households moved from using protected ponds in 2015 to unprotected ponds in 2017, of which at least half were located in nine villages. Thus, there may have been some specific events in those villages that caused a decrease in the use of protected ponds, such as drought or flooding. These and other possible reasons for a decline in the use of safely managed and protected drinking water services will be further investigated in the LIFT in-depth nutrition study in early 2019.

It is important to note that in 2015 and 2016, several of LIFT's new nutrition-related projects had a slow start and, thus, did not always meet their annual targets in disseminating nutrition-sensitive information. However, and as seen in the 2017 achievement of Pr5.1 and Pr5.2, LIFT nutrition projects have caught up in reaching households with nutrition-sensitive information and increasing people's awareness of the nutritional needs of women and children. Nevertheless, the lag time needed between receiving information, increasing knowledge, and changing actual behaviours may explain LIFT falling short in achieving outcome indicators Pr5.3, Pr5.4, Pr5.5, and Pr5.6.

Outcome 6

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

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
6.1 Number of LIFT villages where common property resource management is taken up	171*	489*	660	620	106	HHS
6.2 Number of households in LIFT villages benefitting from protected/managed natural resources	38,846 F 7,962 M 30,884	41,589 F 4,522 M 37,067	80,435 F 12,484 M 67,951	45,000	179	HHS

▲ Table 2.10
Programme-level
Outcome 6

* 2015 in old programme area
* 2016-17 in new programme area.

HHS
LIFT Household Survey

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

Due to the nature of LIFT's natural resource management programmes, this indicator applies to tier 1 only. Of the 429 villages surveyed in 2017, 11 per cent report implementing LIFT-supported natural resource management activities. When extrapolated to tier 1 villages, 489 villages are estimated to have implemented LIFT natural resource management activities. When combined with the 171 villages from LIFT's previous programme area, LIFT achieved 106 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone.

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

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

This indicator applies to only tier 1 due to the nature of programming. From 2015 to 2017, there was a 23 per cent increase in respondents reporting to have benefitted from community-managed natural resources, with a 25 per cent increase for male-headed households and a 17 per cent increase for female-headed households. When extrapolated to households reached in tier 1 in 2017, about 41,600 additional households are estimated to have benefitted from community-managed natural resources. When combined with LIFT's prior achievement, LIFT accomplished 179 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone.

The most common reported benefits, in order of frequency, include protected water bodies, community forests, and common grazing lands.

Outcome 7

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

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
7.1 % of LIFT funds managed by national entities (by type of entity)	39*	38	N/A	25	152	FMO
7.2 Number and type of local groups and institutions supported to promote food and livelihood security	1,972	818	2,790	2,300	121	IPs

7.1 Percentage of LIFT funds managed by national entities

A major focus of LIFT's current strategy is 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. In 2017, the annual budget to be managed by all national entities is over USD 25.3 million, which is 38 per cent of LIFT's 2017 programme expenditure of around USD 67.3 million. This achievement is 152 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone. In 2017, LIFT signed 15 new contracts, of which six were with national entities, including two with the Department of Social Welfare and four with local NGOs. Of the remaining nine new contracts with international agencies, three of them sub-contracted to 13 local organisations. For example, The Border Consortium (TBC) in the Uplands programme works closely with and disburses funds to eight local entities.

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 2017, 29 partners report supporting 2,790 local groups and institutions to promote food and livelihood security, with an increase of 818 groups in 2017 alone. With this accomplishment, LIFT has achieved 121 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

The partners supporting the largest number of local groups include Care and Save the Children both in the Tat Lan programme (609 and 501 groups, respectively), Save the Children in the Delta-3 programme (262 groups), HelpAge (181 groups), Mercy Corps (171 groups), ActionAid-SEDN (181 groups) and more recently, the Network Activity Group (NAG) (130 groups), newly started under the Uplands programme.

▲ Table 2.11
Programme-level
Outcome 7

* For 2016 only

FMO
Fund Management Office
IP
Implementing Partners

Outcome 8

Generation of policy-relevant evidence regarding pro-poor development

	Achievement 2010–2016	Achievement 2017	Cumulative Achievement 2010–2017	Milestone 2017	Per cent achieved	Data Source
8.1 Number of LIFT-supported policy oriented events organised	140*	244	384	115	334	FMO, IPs
8.2 Number of life policy-oriented publications published and disseminated to stakeholders	49	54	103	60	172	FMO, IPs

▲ Table 2.12

Programme-level
Outcome 8

* This is a correction of
the number reported in the
2016 Annual Report

FMO

Fund Management Office

IP

Implementing Partners

8.1 Number of LIFT-supported policy oriented events organised

Since 2015, when LIFT first started tracking this indicator, LIFT has organised a total of 384 policy-oriented events, achieving 334 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

In 2017, LIFT supported 244 policy oriented events, of which partners organised 222 and FMO organised 22. The events included a wide range of activities at state/regional and national levels and involved many different approaches that LIFT employs to inform and engage with policy stakeholders, including government, civil society organisations, professional organisations, private sector actors, and development partners. LIFT FMO and partners are devoting increasing attention to working with parliamentarians as well as state and regional governments. LIFT partnerships with civil society organisations on policy engagement are becoming increasingly strategic. Highlights of 2017 events include:

The State Counsellor's Visit

In January 2017, the State Counsellor visited the LIFT-supported MCCT project in Kyee village in Pakokku Township, Magwe region. Following the visit, the State Counsellor convened a high-level meeting with union-level ministers and relevant development partners to discuss how to improve the population's nutrition. The State Counsellor observed that nutrition was a multi-sectoral issue and established an interministerial coordination body under the direction of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Chin State Development Forum

LIFT's Uplands Programme provided a financial contribution to the development forum organised by the Chin State government in March. The two-day forum gathered ministers, government departments, parliamentarians, international development partners, and CSOs in Hakha to discuss Chin State's socio-economic development issues and priorities across all sectors. The Chin State government now plans to develop an integrated framework for sustainable development.

Civil Society Organisations' Research Forum

In April, LIFT FMO organised a forum to present findings from two studies concerning CSO networks - *The Art of Networking* (Paung Ku; Christian Aid) and *Understanding Civil Society Networks* (LIFT). The presentations were followed by discussion with CSO network representatives and parliamentarians about how CSO networks are evolving in Myanmar, how they are influencing policy change, and what roles they can play in shaping policy discussions in the future. As CSO representatives were able to reflect on the evolution of their respective roles in a complex and rapidly evolving policy environment, parliamentarians were able to provide constructive feedback. This event was important in terms of helping promote a more inclusive dialogue between people and their elected government representatives.

Gender advocacy

LIFT's strategic partner, The Gender Equality Network (GEN) continued its high-level advocacy for gender equality by convening workshops on the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) implementation and constitutional reform. GEN also completed research on the impact of gender in the 2015 elections and improved its ability to conduct gender analysis on a wide range of laws and policies. GEN deepened its efforts to fight gender-based violence by continuing to lobby for a comprehensive and effective Prevention of Violence Against Women Law, conducting a mapping study on gender-based violence services across the country, and leading training activities and public campaigns.

Agriculture and Rural Development Public Expenditure Review (PER)

LIFT FMO organised two events in Nay Pyi Taw in August to present findings of the World Bank agriculture and rural development public expenditure review to government. The lead World Bank researcher presented key findings to MoALI officials in a workshop and then made a similar presentation to a group of 25 parliamentarians. The presentation was followed by a robust discussion between parliamentarians, the World

Bank researcher, and the LIFT FMO. These presentations, and the PER overall, helped inform the investment plan of the Agriculture Development Strategy. For more detail, see section 6.2.

Community-based social protection

Lodestar convened a two-day workshop in Myaung Township in December 2017, to provide a platform for public discussion on the activities and achievements of the LIFT-funded pilot project for community-based social protection. Over 150 people attended the workshop, including representatives from parliament, local government, the Sagaing Region Department of Rural Development, and representatives from all 40 of the village-based organisations connected with the project. The 40 organisations presented their activities, achievements and plans for future networking and sustainability. The workshop featured a transparent reporting and evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the project. It also provided opportunities for participants to build institutional links between independent, village-based organisations and government entities. The workshop was well attended by local government and members of parliament. The workshop demonstrated an interesting approach to community-based social protection; however, concerns about the viability of the approach remain.

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

Since 2015, when LIFT first started tracking this indicator, LIFT has published and disseminated a total of 103 policy oriented publications, which is achieving 172 per cent of its 2017 milestone.

In 2017, LIFT FMO and IPs published and disseminated 54 policy oriented publications, 18 from FMO and 36 from IPs. The publications covered a wide range of policy-relevant topics, particularly policy design and implementation. Publications have included research findings, policy briefs, and implementation guides. The publications are primarily in English, although some material is also published in Myanmar language. A summary list of publications can be found in Annex 6. Highlights include:

Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey

The Michigan State University-led Agrifood Value Chain Development program, co-funded by LIFT and USAID, published a report and policy brief entitled *Aquaculture in Myanmar: Fish Farm Technology, Production Economics and Management*. The survey provides a comprehensive account of the technical characteristics of inland aquaculture in Myanmar. MSU convened a dissemination workshop to present key findings to the donor community and development partners, civil society, government, and the private sector.

Land Tenure in Rural Lowland Myanmar

GRETT has undertaken a series of land tenure research projects in different agro-economic areas of Myanmar. The rural lowland research

documents social processes leading to insecure tenure, as well as processes leading to investment and sustainable use of land by rural populations. Focusing on the Delta and Dry Zone, the main paddy producing regions of Myanmar, the analysis identifies important factors that shape rural households' relationship to land. From British colonisation to the 2012 reforms, many issues have remained relatively unchanged, particularly in regard to local dynamics of landlessness, exclusion processes, local power plays, restrictions on farmers' land rights and the state's focus on rice. In a rapidly changing legal context, the research provides a typology of farmers and the landless and argues that more attention needs to be paid to understanding the diversity of rural households and forms of landlessness.

Migration Background Papers

The International Labour Organization (ILO) prepared three background papers in 2017. A *Complaints Mechanism Briefing* paper was distributed at events and to training participants to increase the visibility and the transparency of the complaints mechanism. A draft *Recruitment Briefing* paper was used to develop a curriculum for the recruitment processes training and as a tool for the trainers. A draft *Briefing Paper on Social Protection* provided input on the review of the law. The paper is now being updated to include recommendations from the National Preparatory Meeting and the 9th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour.

Understanding Civil Society Networks

LIFT FMO conducted an evaluation of three CSO networks it has funded Food Security Working Group (FSWG), Gender Equality Network (GEN), and Land Core Group (LCG). The synthesis report looks at the role, value and characteristics of the networks and the dual contexts of civil society and food security in Myanmar. The analysis identifies the similarities and differences among the networks and the integration of gender by FSWG and LCG. The report includes an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges that organisations face and provides recommendations to LIFT for network development in Myanmar.

Myanmar Agriculture Public Expenditure Review

LIFT supported the World Bank to conduct the first-ever Agricultural Public Expenditure Review in Myanmar, in order to deepen policy dialogue on improving public services on agricultural growth and other developmental objectives. The findings and recommendations serve as a baseline for the investment plan being prepared for the Agricultural Development Strategy 2017–2021 and will help strengthen the alignment of budget with strategic objectives. The review recommends that in the current budget-constrained environment, a first priority should be improving the use of existing funds and attracting additional donor support for important programmes that are underfunded.

2.4

Summary of LIFT's 2017 Results

Of the 34 indicators reported on, LIFT met or exceeded 30 or 88 per cent of its 2017 milestones.¹² LIFT met or exceeded all of its purpose-level outcomes, including increased household incomes, assets, income diversity, resilience, diet diversity, food provisioning and stunting. Over the life of LIFT, these results translate to an estimated 3.5 million and 3.3 million people living in households that increased their incomes and assets respectively, 3.7 million people with strengthened resilience, and 432,000 households with improved diets. It is important to note, however, that both the income diversity and stunting results are provisional and being further verified with other data sources.

Achievements in other major outcomes include increased farm-based production by smallholder farmers, as seen by LIFT meeting or exceeding its 2017 milestones. Over the life of LIFT, agricultural advisory services have been provided to more than 200,000 households, more than 325,000 households are trialling and/or adopting new practices, inputs, and/or technologies, and nearly 300,000 households are experiencing an increase in crop productivity. In addition, an estimated 485,000 households experienced increased profits from agriculture activities.

LIFT also met or exceeded its 2017 milestones in increasing safe employment opportunities in non-farm activities, by LIFT partners, over the life of LIFT, providing 50,000 households with non-agriculture skills development and an estimated 490,000 households experiencing an increase in income from non-agriculture activities.

LIFT's success in exceeding many of its indicators continues to be driven by the rapid expansion of LIFT's financial inclusion activities. LIFT now supports 65 microfinance partners who, in turn, provide financial services to over 2.1 million active clients. In addition, in 2017 LIFT nearly doubled again the number of microfinance partners who are now financially self-sufficient, from six in 2015, to twelve in 2016, and to 20 in 2017.

Another area of achievement includes strengthening the capacities of national entities, as seen by nearly 40 per cent of LIFT's annual budget continuing to be managed by national entities, including CSOs, Myanmar private sector actors, and the Government of Myanmar. Also, by the end of 2017 LIFT and its partners had supported nearly 2,800 local groups and institutions.

Lastly, LIFT continued to achieve considerable success in the policy realm, by again far exceeding its 2017 milestones in supporting, over the life of LIFT, 35 significant changes in government policies and programmes and 18 changes in government budget allocations. This was achieved, in part, by LIFT and its partners supporting over the last several years nearly 390 policy-oriented events and producing over 100 policy-oriented publications.

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.

Of the 34 indicators reported on, LIFT fell short in meeting four, or 12 per cent, of its 2017 milestones, mostly in the area of nutrition programming. Unlike last year, LIFT did not meet its targets in providing households with nutrition-sensitive information and in increasing adults' correct knowledge of the nutritional needs of women and children. However, LIFT fell short in reaching its targets for acceptable diet diversity for children 6-23 months (87 per cent achieved) and infants who received only breastmilk in the previous 24 hours (76 per cent achieved). In addition, LIFT did not achieve its targets in households using safely managed sanitation services (89 per cent achieved) and households using safely managed and protected drinking water services (79 per cent achieved). As noted earlier, there may be a lag in achieving these particular outcomes due to the gradual start up of several nutrition-related projects in 2015 and 2016, much of which was caught up on in 2017. These results will be further explored in a LIFT in-depth nutrition study in early 2019, as well as the FMO will identify additional ways to strengthen LIFT's programmes and projects to better ensure the achievement of positive nutrition outcomes.

With many of the household-related outcome indicators, female-headed households continued to be worse off than male-headed households. Not including nutrition-related indicators, the gap between the proportions of male- and female-headed households ranged from one to eight percentage points, and the indicators with noticeable differences include increased income (four percentage points), increased assets (three percentage points), resilience (five percentage points), increase in income from agriculture activities (six percentage points), and benefitting from protected/managed natural resources (eight percentage points). In addition, there was a very sharp difference in households living below the poverty line, with 11 per cent of male-headed households and 28 per cent of female-headed households. Areas where female-headed households fared slightly better than male-headed households was in using safely managed and protected drinking water services (by one percentage point). Mothers also knew considerably more than fathers about the nutritional needs of women and children (by 18 percentage points). The discrepancies between male- and female-headed households and how these gaps have changed over time will be explored further in an in-depth gender study in early 2019.

¹² As is common in some donor agencies, a programme is considered to meet a target if 90%-110% of that target is achieved, to exceed a target if more than 110% is achieved, and to not meet a target if less than 90% is achieved.

2.4 Activity Monitoring

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	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	1,476,018
Number of female-headed households	-	3,691	16,940	19,733	14,637	42,511	15,251	17,637	130,400
Number of households with people with disabilities	-	1,064	2,354	3,111	1,508	1,580	2,200	5,655	17,472
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	209,758
Number of households benefiting from market information and linkages	-	3,324	21,523	3,177	10,691	4,064	122	102	43,003
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	33,729
Fishery production									
Number of households supported in wild capture fishery	4,799	-	3,177	1,956	1,654	3,948	277	291	16,102
Other IGA (not agriculture)									
Number of households supported in other IGA	11,635	3,700	2,620	6,157	2,636	752	1,403	645	29,548
Training									
Number of participants trained in total	21,491	39,237	70,914	84,679	84,438	26,588	52,128	82,651	462,126
Number trained - agriculture related (including livestock and aquaculture)	10,443	8,530	41,231	32,367	37,171	9,348	24,803	51,900	215,793
Number trained - other IGAs (not agriculture)	6,293	4,038	3,116	3,272	5,490	2,402	8,454	3,240	36,305
Number trained - wild capture fishery related	-	-	195	121	283	2,504	2,650	1,246	6,999
No. of extension workers trained	3,801	56	1,422	6,921	3,018	2,143	792	3,086	21,239
Number trained in environmental protection/conservation/rehabilitation	954	1,580	6,477	7,223	6,976	271	108	621	24,210
Number trained in skills to strengthen CBO management	-	25,033	18,473	34,775	31,500	9,920	15,321	22,558	157,580
Cash for work (CfW)									
Number person - days of CfW provided	-	374,469	671,116	588,506	301,957	209,650	15,165	11,626	2,172,489
Number person - days of CfW for women	-	164,191	246,821	269,937	120,281	125,730	6,779	5,367	939,106
Total number of households supported through CfW	33,493	31,410	43,227	38,488	74,598	20,103	2,641	23,687	267,647
Nutrition									
Number of participants receiving MCCTs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,967	36,477	43,444
Number of participants trained in nutrition trainings/workshops (community)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65,842	55,035	165,520	286,397
Migration									
Number of participants trained in migration awareness trainings/workshops	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,457	13,716	16,173

Selected Results

2010–2017



9.4 million

people reached by LIFT



2.1 million

people (89% are women) are served by LIFT-funded microfinance institutions



2.2 million

people have increased their food security by more than one month



3.7 million

people have improved resilience



806,000

households reported increased incomes



432,000

households have improved diets



495,000

members of civil society took part in LIFT-funded training



490,000

households increased their income from non-agricultural activities



758,000

households have increased assets







Geographic Areas

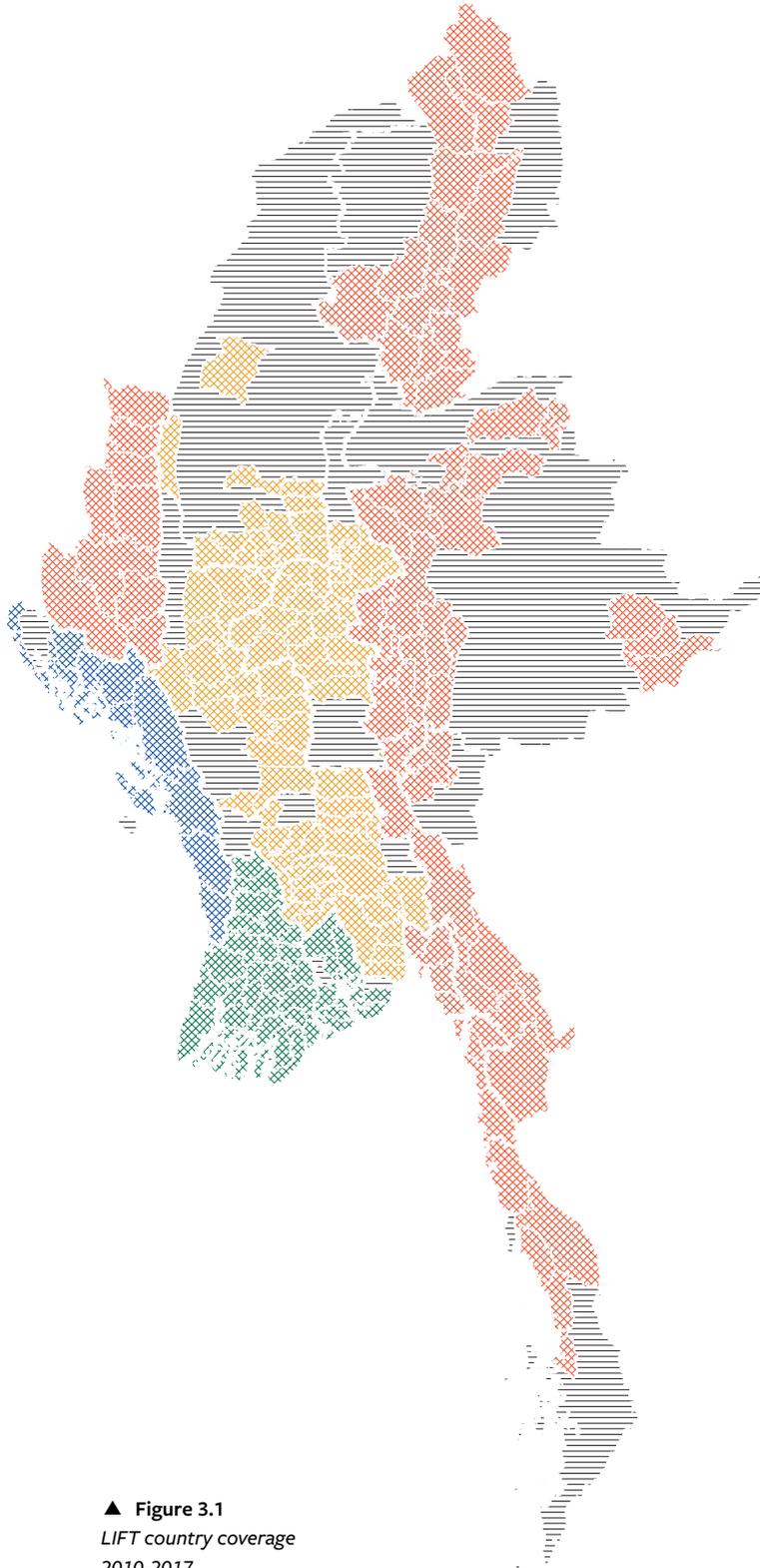
This chapter highlights LIFT's progress during 2017 in each of the four geographic zones where LIFT is active: the Ayeyarwady Delta, the central Dry Zone, Rakhine State and the Uplands region of Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, and Mon and Tanintharyi Regions. New projects were contracted in all geographic regions in 2017. LIFT now has 75 ongoing projects and is working in 246 townships across the country.

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 can improve livelihoods, nutrition and resilience outcomes in cost-effective and scalable ways.

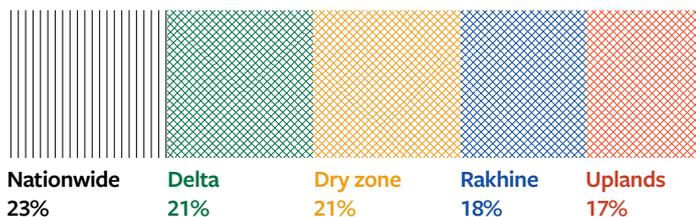
Important updates on the projects in these zones are available in Annex 4.

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
2010-2017



▲ **Figure 3.2**
Allocation of budget by
agro-ecological zones

Magway

3.1

Delta

Rakhine

Bago

AYEYARWADY

YANGON



◀ Figure 3.3

LIFT activity in the Delta 2017

13 An Analysis of Poverty rates in Myanmar, PART 2, Ministry of Planning and Finance-World Bank Group, December 2017

14 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016, MoHS

15 Myanmar Rice Sector Development Strategy', May 2015

16 LIFT HH survey 2015

17 LIFT HH survey

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

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

20 'Livelihood and social changes in rural Myanmar, QSEM 2016 QSEM Series Round Five Report'

21 The diets of infants of 6 to 11 months of age in the Delta Zone are extremely poor. In fact, almost no children in this age group have an adequately diverse diet (IDDS 2.5) and the prevalence of diarrhoea is 15 per cent: LEARN, 'Undernutrition in Myanmar', March 2016

22 Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding of children under six months of age is 41 per cent, with only 20 per cent of children between 6 and 24 months with minimum acceptable diet (MAD) and 17.5 per cent of mothers with acceptable dietary diversity score: 'LIFT Household Survey 2015'

23 DHS 2015

24 Wave Money is a joint venture between Telenor and Yoma Bank providing mobile financial services via a nationwide agent network. Money can be transferred to a person's account on their mobile phone and they collect the amount in cash from an agent in the network.

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. However, there is a high poverty rate of 26.2 per cent¹³ and high malnutrition rates, with 36 per cent of children under five being stunted.¹⁴

The Delta remains one of Myanmar's major rice production areas, accounting for one-quarter of national rice production,¹⁵ but also has one of the highest levels of landlessness at 66 per cent.¹⁶ This fuels urban migration. 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 fishing¹⁷ or agricultural work for their livelihoods. 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 2016.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ Infrastructure development and moves towards permanent cultivation are other factors contributing to positive results. Agricultural productivity has increased in part due to targeted NGO assistance and improved access to credit.²⁰

For the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), the key role of agriculture in the Myanmar economy is to ensure food and nutrition security, increase foreign exchange earnings and contribute to rural development. MoALI's approach has evolved over time. Having previously focused on crop agriculture, there is now a focus on diversification towards high-value products, including livestock and fisheries, and the development of the rural non-farm sector. Diversification of incomes and developing the rural non-farm sector are key to the rural transition occurring in the economy's structural transformation.

The Delta 3 programme

The Delta 3 programme, LIFT's third phase of activities in the region, comprises four priority components, framed by the programme-level theory of change. These are:

- | Strengthening smallholder farmers' position in the rice value chain
- | Improving access to new economic opportunities: off-farm income generation, vocational training, and support for migration
- | Addressing vulnerabilities: social protection measures, improved nutrition, reduced indebtedness, climate change adaptation
- | Providing support to pro-poor policies and stakeholder coordination

By working on these priority components, the Delta programme contributes to LIFT's higher-level strategy outcomes of increasing income, resilience, nutrition and pro-poor policy influence.

Highlights in 2017

Addressing vulnerabilities through improved nutrition

The Delta 3 programme works to address the immediate causes of stunting, which at the individual level includes inadequate food intake and disease.²¹ It also tackles the underlying drivers of poor nutrition, knowledge of good nutrition practices and food expenditure, especially during key early stages of life.²² Malnutrition is high in the Ayeyarwady Region. Demographic and Health Survey data shows that 36 per cent of children under five years are stunted, well above the national average of 29 per cent. This is only exceeded in Rakhine (37 per cent), Chin (41 per cent) and Kayah (40 per cent).²³ Among children under two years of age the proportion is still high, at 30 per cent. Several partners in the Delta programme contribute to improving this, with nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Save the Children's Bright SUN project in Labutta Township works with government health systems and a 3MDG-funded project across 200 villages. It delivers maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and social and behaviour change activities (SBCC) to an estimated 10,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women with children aged under two. The project has established and trained MCCT and SBCC focal groups in 202 villages in the catchment area of the five rural health centres involved in the intervention. These groups, which are an extension of the existing village health committees, integrate health volunteers into the MCCT and behaviour change interventions. By the end of 2017, they identified and enrolled almost 4,600 women and delivered more than 37,000 cash transfers.

Some major changes were made to MCCT activities in 2017. The monthly cash transfer amount was increased from MMK 10,000 (USD 7.40) to MMK 15,000 (USD 11) to align with other LIFT-supported MCCT programmes in Chin and Rakhine States. An exciting innovation was the introduction of mobile payments, delivered through Wave Money.²⁴ Mobile delivery of cash is being piloted as the system has the potential to deliver significant cost efficiencies.

From November, 32 villages transitioned to mobile payments from the traditional method of MCCT health volunteers delivering the cash to mothers in person. Women receive a notification of the cash transfer on their mobile phones and collect the cash from Wave Money agents, usually located at small grocery shops. By the end of the year, 804 were receiving their monthly cash transfer via Wave Money.

Implementing partners	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		Support for the development and diversification of livelihood options
Metta Development Foundation	Bogale	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)	Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta	Livelihood support for income diversification mainly in the rural non-farm economy
Radanar Ayar	Labutta	Support to local seed production, improvement of post-harvest practices, farmer-led extension services, collective marketing and contract farming with private sector
GRET	Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale	Small grant delivery and capacity building to township based CSOs
NAG	Eight townships	Strategic Partnership: Co-management of Ayeyarwady wetland resources and fishery sector governance
Metta Development Foundation	Eleven townships	Strategic partnership: establishment of social enterprise within Metta, research and policy advocacy, strengthening the organisational capacity of Metta.
Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and CDI (Centre for Development Innovation) University of Wageningen	Delta region with focus in Pathein	Support to rice seed sector development in the Ayeyarwady Region, strengthening public and private formal seed systems.
ACCU	Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pathein	Financial services
ECLOF	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	

◀ **Table 3.1**
LIFT-funded projects in
the Delta 2017

- Post-distribution monitoring found that:
- | Almost 90 per cent of women have at least one mobile phone in their household, and 85 per cent control access to the phone.
 - | Travel time for a one-way trip to reach a Wave Money agent is considered reasonable, with 32 per cent of women reaching a Wave Money agent within 15 minutes and 89 per cent within 30 minutes.
 - | The pilot villages are close to the township so travel costs to reach a Wave Money agent are relatively low. Wave Money intends to expand the agent network, which will make this method of payment more workable for women who live further away.
 - | More than half the women say they are continuing to attend regular ante-natal care from midwives or health centres.
 - | All beneficiaries are the main decision makers regarding how the cash is spent.
 - | Seventy per cent of women use the cash to buy more food; 53 per cent buy a greater variety of foods for themselves and 31 per cent buy a wider variety of foods for their child.

Throughout 2017, the project conducted intensive SBCC activities that reached 4,600 target mothers and more than 12,400 other village members. The project made good progress in involving basic health staff in delivering SBCC messages to community members. In 2017, 1,746 SBCC sessions were conducted on infant and young child feeding practices, ante-natal and post-natal care, WASH and other behaviours aimed at improving health.

It is too early to know if cash delivery through Wave Money will reduce attendance at SBCC sessions. This will be monitored in 2018.

Welthungerhilfe/GRET's Delta RISE project aims to reach approximately 10,000 households in 118 villages in Bogale Township with campaigns to increase awareness of appropriate nutrition practices. They directly target households in 45 villages with LANN (Linking Agriculture, Natural Resources and Nutrition) activities. LANN is a conceptual framework and methodology that raises awareness of the causes and consequences of malnutrition and generates community action to address this, and so improve their families' nutrition. During 2017, almost 2,200 households were reached with nutritional information and participated in LANN training. Seventy per cent of participants were women. Worldwide, men's engagement in nutrition activities is reported to be limited. Thirty per cent of Delta RISE's participants are men. The project has found that men are encouraged to participate in nutrition awareness activities with their wives when they learn how the food they grow and the farming techniques they use can have a positive impact on the family's nutritional well-being.

The nutrition component of **World Vision Myanmar's** Growing Livelihoods in Bogale project tackles malnutrition at different levels, from individuals to communities, through training, awareness-raising sessions and growth monitoring. Activities are supported

by government health staff. During 2017, training and awareness activities focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and reached 2,000 households in 30 villages. The project supports community health workers to monitor the growth of children aged under five to identify undernourished children, and also monitor the impact of the project's activities on nutrition. Growth monitoring occurs in all villages every month, with the height, weight, and mid-upper arm circumference of the children measured. Any child identified with signs of malnutrition is referred to a health centre in line with the existing community referral system supported by 3MDG. During 2017, 1,176 children were monitored.

WorldFish in its 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 the overall nutritional quality. This promotes small fish consumption in households, resulting in improved nutrition. In Myanmar, fish is an important part of the diet. Households spend nearly as much money on fish (14 per cent of food expenditure) as on rice (19 per cent), and average fish consumption is estimated to be just above the global average at 21 kg per person per year.²⁵ The project provides training to both women and men.

Strengthening smallholder farmers' position in the rice value chain

Farmers' organisations—In the Ayeyarwady region most farms are small, and land is unequally distributed. Almost half of the farming households in the region own less than five acres each. One-third of the region's farming households own 1.5 acres on average, which is just three per cent of all crop land.²⁶

In an agrarian structure characterised by smallholders, farmers' organisations can play an important role in facilitating access to affordable inputs and support services, and in strengthening farmers' bargaining power in input and output markets. This ensures the effective integration of smallholders into value chains.²⁷ LIFT's partners continue to work with different models of farmers' organisations to effectively link and integrate smallholder farmers into the rice value chain and promote inclusive agribusiness.

Mercy Corps' Linking Labutta to Market project adopts a facilitative approach for market development. Farmers join together to form well-managed farmer producer enterprises (FPEs) that pool resources collectively and build links with private sector millers, input dealers and traders.

Almost 2,200 farmers are members of 77 FPEs and 23 per cent of these are women. The project carried out a useful gender assessment²⁸ that found that although men dominate the

25 Aquaculture in Myanmar: Fish farm technology, production economics and management, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, research paper 53, May 2017. MSU, IFPRI, CESD
26 Crop Production and Profitability in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Regions, Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey; Michigan State University, USAID, LIFT, CESD, IFPRI, August 2017
27 Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) 2016
28 Johansson, 2016

FPEs involved in the rice value chain, women are involved in decision-making and hold 16 per cent of committee leadership positions. The business performance of the FPEs in terms of profitability and return on investment is essential for their sustainability. During 2017, the Linking Labutta to Market project assessed the business performance of 56 FPEs and found they were profitable, with a yearly average return on investment of 10 per cent. Sixty-two FPEs grew their revenue by 23 per cent or more. FPEs with the most success have investment funds, credit arrangements for seeds and inputs, and carry out the purchase and sale of rice paddy.

During 2017, 56 FPEs with around 1,300 farmer members used their own resources to ensure adequate facilities for collective paddy storage. The stored harvest had an estimated value of USD 198,000. Almost 2,000 baskets of certified seeds were contracted on credit to 791 farmers in 31 FPEs, through agreements with 21 millers. The number of dealers providing input credit services to farmers increased from two to seven, providing USD 90,000 worth of fertiliser on credit to 320 farmers.

Millers and traders receive mentoring and capacity building support from the project to develop their cash flow information for presenting to financial service providers. This information was shared with banks that had expressed interest in providing loans. During the second half of 2017, four millers and four traders explored finance products with banks.

Welthungerhilfe/GRET's Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development (Delta RISE) project supports a different kind of groups for farmers. Their producers' organisations (POs) deliver services along the value chains using cooperative and association models to structure their organisations. POs 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 by introducing new technologies. Almost 3,000 farmers and landless people are members of functional producer groups and around 40 per cent of these members are women.²⁹ Under the cooperative model, the project has supported 38 POs with a membership of 1,200 farmers. Analysis of the business performances of 20 POs that have been operating for at least one year shows an average annual return on investment of 24 per cent for the financial year 2016-2017.

Innovations require investment. Since 2012, GRET has developed three financial services operated by 38 POs: inventory credit, hire purchase and small producer credit services. Under GRET's participatory model, the POs are responsible for credit assessments, selection of clients, loan disbursement and collection of repayments. GRET plans to create an independent and sustainable local structure using a cluster approach to support development of the three financial services. This will ensure effective long-term service delivery.

Improving the production and distribution of high quality rice seed to farmers

Improving the availability of rice seed is a priority. Currently, the availability of high-quality paddy seed is well below what is required by farmers, and less than 10 per cent of farmers use certified seeds. Lack of access to quality seeds is a key bottleneck to further modernisation of the rice sector.

The Delta programme continues its work in the seed sector and during the last quarter of 2017 contracted the Support to Rice Seed Sector Development in Ayeyarwady Delta project to Welthungerhilfe (WHH), in partnership with the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University. The programme aims to improve farmers' access to quality seeds by strengthening the formal public and private seed systems. It does this through an approach that integrates operators and service providers into the seed value chain. Activities are in line with Seed Sector Road Map priorities, endorsed by MoALI in 2016 and LIFT's Seed Sector report published in 2017.³⁰

LIFT's partners in the Delta continue to work with the intermediary seed systems, strengthening production and marketing capacities of seed grower groups and adopting alternative quality assurance approaches.³¹

The consortium WHH/GRET gained recognised experience in quality seed production, with the development of protocols for seed growers to increase the quantity and quality of seeds available locally. Seed production still faces challenges related to demanding technical procedures, economic difficulties for some farmers, limited availability of registered seeds and saturated demand at the village level. GRET and WHH have started to support the formation of a seed growers association that will provide: registered seed for multiplication as certified seed; collective purchase of quality inputs on credit; seed certification through the participatory guarantee system (PGS); collective marketing of PGS, and technical support to new members and extension services.

Extension services

In the past, extension systems focused on maximising crop yields and to some degree neglected other issues of importance to farmers, such as costs of production, pests and diseases, water and soil fertility management, overall farm income, and suitability to agro-ecological zones. There is significant potential for private sector involvement in both research and extension, including in the production and distribution of improved seed.³²

By end of 2017, the Delta 3 programme delivered extension services to around 9,400 farmers, using different methodologies and approaches, resulting in increased involvement of the private sector, and in particular millers, input suppliers and equipment dealers.

In Mercy Corps' project, around 1,400 smallholder farmers have accessed new

²⁹ Producer organisations include also landless groups carrying out different livelihood activities, especially livestock

³⁰ <https://www.lift-fund.org/lift-seed-study>

³¹ Village based seed production, supported by NGO projects

³² Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), 2016

	Number of Townships	Loans disbursed (USD)	Total clients	Female clients
38 Savings and Credit Cooperatives	20	424,685	25,500	15,045
ACLEDA	2 State/Region	22,777,948	63,170	41,814
ASA Myanmar	23	23,358,247	40,012	40,012
CARD	6	728,198	10,662	10,657
Early Dawn	11	30,277,731	98,697	98,688
Environmental Conservation and Livelihood Outreach Foundation (ECLOF)	1	1,496,878	8,273	8,215
IFC-Fullerton Myanmar	12	23,100,868	62,689	56,024
LOLC	13	25,195,007	54,833	52,553
Myanmar Finance	13	12,571,889	52,506	44,919
Pact Global Microfinance Fund (*)	27	141,736,775	368,706	365,387
Proximity Finance	20	8,205,203	35,244	21,146
Ratana Metta Organization	1	1,765,081	7,899	7,761
SATHAPANA LIMITED	15	1,714,338	63,789	45,706
Vision Fund Myanmar	13	27,580,720	69,930	60,140
YMCA Microfinance	1	1,144,518	7,351	7,222
Total		322,078,086	969,261	875,289

▲ **Table 3.2**
Financial inclusion in the Delta

or improved private sector extension and agricultural services, through linkages with 25 private sector organisations. The project makes use of a number of approaches, which are reinforced through public-private coordination. A new approach is being developed in partnership with the Awba group of companies. Awba dealers are providing basic training in good agricultural practices for seven farmer producer enterprises (FPEs). In 2017, 21 FPEs had access to more local input supply dealers, who visited their villages with more products. The role of the dealer is to negotiate contracts with FPEs, deliver the products, and provide information and technical advice on proper use of fertilisers. Applying hire-purchase systems with

FPEs continues to be a challenge. An approach being considered is to link FPEs with local farm equipment rental service providers who are growing in number and quickly expanding their service outreach.

Through WHH/GRET's project more than 4,000 farmers have gained access to extension and advisory services, organised around farmer-led demonstration plots, learning centres and farmer-to-farmer dissemination, based on innovative agro-ecology techniques. Rice production, vegetable production and soil fertility management are the focus of the agro-extension programme. The training and extension system for rice production was revised towards a more participatory and demand-driven system. The learning centre approach is better suited to horticulture as the activity is permanent in nature. The gardens are conveniently located and all farmers participate in demonstrations of innovative techniques that address resilience to climate change, soil structure and fertility restoration, decrease production costs, and improve production of diversified and quality food. Several farmers are demonstrating that they can generate significant incomes in this way.

Rural finance and mechanisation

The increase in migration from the Delta since 2011 has led to labour shortages in rural areas and wage rises, which has driven a demand for mechanisation in agriculture. LIFT's engagement with the private sector in 2016 contributed to meeting this demand. The LIFT-funded Yoma Bank Agribusiness Finance Programme supports farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses in the Delta by providing loans for agricultural machinery and equipment. During 2017, 233 clients took hire purchase loans to buy farm machinery from eight equipment dealers. Most leases were for four-wheel tractors, followed in popularity by combine harvesters, pick-up trucks, dump trucks and tillers. Michigan State University (MSU)'s research in the Delta finds that 94 per cent of farming households are using machines for land preparation. Mechanisation improves labour and agriculture productivity and leads to the creation of small businesses that rent the machinery to other smallholder farmers, multiplying the impact of the mechanisation and generating additional incomes.

By December 2017, around 969,000 clients in the Delta had received microfinance loans worth around USD 322 million. More than half were used for agriculture and livestock and around one-third for small businesses.

Local livelihood diversification

People in the region's rural communities are increasingly sourcing their incomes from a variety of sources, including non-farm businesses, agriculture and migration. Households that cannot diversify, either through a lack of capital or productive labour, are at risk of falling behind.³³ MSU's research shows that levels of landlessness are high in the Delta:

33 'Livelihood and Social Changes in Rural Myanmar, QSEM 2016 QSEM Series Round Five Report'

most farms are small and land is unequally distributed, with half of farming households owning less than five acres of land. The smallest farms are the most diversified, earning a greater proportion of their income from vegetables, livestock and other crops than large farms, which derive most of their income from dry season paddy.³⁴

GRET's Small Producer Credit Services (SPCS) project and the WHH Village Revolving Funds (VRFs) show that finance is being used by landless and smallholder farmers for livestock, trading, machinery repair and rental businesses, as well as agriculture. In 2017, 2,275 loans worth around USD 400,000 in total were disbursed to landless people in the target villages for 'non-paddy' businesses involving livestock, vegetable production, aquaculture, or off-farm small-scale village- or township-based businesses. The services of SPCS and VRF are mainly financial, but also include management capacity building and technical advice. Whether the intended outcome is diversification or specialisation depends on livelihoods strategies—to 'hang in' or 'step up'.

The **WorldFish** MyCulture project supports the development of small-scale aquaculture activities. The aim is to collaboratively develop and prove the viability of sustainable and scalable small-scale aquaculture (SSA) technologies, and to provide the necessary supporting seed, feed, advice and credit services. In 2017, the project was scaled up and reached over 1,700 farmers, organised in 123 groups in 253 villages in Delta and the Dry Zone. Fifteen per cent of the farmers were women. Although the SSA groups appear to be dominated by men, as is the case in capture fisheries, women are successfully managing their own ponds in the project area, showing SSA presents viable fishery livelihood opportunities for women.

The initial results of the project are promising in terms of knowledge transfer, production, sales and farmer response. The first data analysis of one production cycle shows that around half of the systems recorded positive gross margins. The analysis also highlights that the initial investment necessary to produce fish is quite high for the smallholders, and the involvement of financial institutions is necessary. Partners have already begun introducing financing initiatives. Forty per cent of the farmers supported by NAG are linked with formal MFIs and banks. GRET established saving groups among fish farmers, and PACT linked fish farmers with existing village development funds. Small farms, nurseries and small and medium enterprises in aquaculture value chains all have to deal with high operating costs, but have limited options for accessing credit they need to fund investments in their enterprises. Identifying mechanisms that could enable the provision of commercial loans tailored to the needs of actors in the farmed fish value chain could help to overcome this.³⁵

World Vision's Growing Livelihoods in Bogale project supports landless and vulnerable households to diversify and increase their income by learning technical skills that lead to non-farm employment.

In 2017 the Labour Market Mapping Assessment informed the technical and vocational training (TVET) component of the project, which started in June with 188 trainees. The first courses ended in December 2017, with 45 graduates. Forty-two per cent of graduates are already employed or have started businesses. Another 48 per cent are employed by Yangon Bus System as drivers and mechanics, with an expected monthly salary of MMK 200,000 (USD 147).

The first analysis of the TVET component shows that the initiative offers good opportunities to uneducated women who are unable or willing to travel, as well as for people who have completed secondary education and want to gain further technical skills before migrating to bigger cities. Most courses take two to six months, requiring a significant commitment from students and their families. Additional training on safe migration and life skills is a must for TVET and needs to be provided on top of the curriculum. The return on investment varies greatly, as the cost for each participant depends on the type of training they undertake and the salaries they may be able to earn in their new occupations. Graduates' salaries range from MMK 100,000 (USD 73) to MMK 300,000 (USD 220). Once employed, the cost of the training can usually be paid for within two to 12 months. Trainings with the highest return on investment are driving and mechanics, since these professions are better paid. Graduates who wish to become self-employed require loans for start-up capital and additional training in how to operate a business.

Employment opportunities and migration

The Delta is close to Yangon and its urban labour opportunities. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a baseline survey in 2016, which showed that migrants' wages were an important source of income for migrant-sending households in the Delta. Three-quarters of those surveyed said migration was necessary and desirable because remittances increased household incomes. The preliminary findings of IOM's CHIME survey in 2017 show that around one-fifth of Delta households have family members who have migrated. The ratio of men to women is 47:53, and 80 per cent migrate within Myanmar. Yangon is the destination for 63 per cent of internal migrants, while 23 per cent migrate within the Delta. Two-thirds of migrants in Ayeyarwady Region send remittances, which are mostly used for investment in economic activities.

The Mercy Corps/Swisscontact/AYO Linking Labutta to Markets project supports rural landless people to develop occupations with local commercial potential, and to access paid employment opportunities in Yangon.

³⁴ Crop Production and Profitability in Ayeyarwady And Yangon, Centre for Economic and Social Development and Michigan State University, June 2017

³⁵ Aquaculture in Myanmar: Fish farm technology, production economics and management, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, research paper 53, May 2017. MSU, IFPRI, CESD

It focuses on supporting occupational skills that are verifiable and likely to result in real employment opportunities. In 2017, 805 landless people from Labutta graduated from training courses in mechanics, construction, garment manufacturing and hospitality. Forty per cent were women. Around 74 per cent of the graduates have secured employment that delivers higher incomes in Labutta and Yangon.

Private sector actors that collaborate with Linking Labutta to Markets include the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA), construction companies, machinery dealers and hotels in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The private sector has not only engaged in providing employment, but has also been proactive in suggesting changes to the curriculum so graduates will gain more practical skills and so be better prepared for their future jobs. The project is exploring a model of private sector-based TVET for the construction and mechanic sectors, in the hope that this will leverage private sector investment.

In March and December 2017, the project organised job fairs that brought together government representatives, NGOs, INGOs, employers and graduates, with more than 140 graduates finding jobs as a result.

Civil society small grant fund

The CSO small grant fund for livelihood system development in the Delta aims to strengthen and build the capacity of local civil society organisations in order to increase food and livelihood security, income, resilience and pro-poor policy influence in the Delta. The fund's governance is well established and the programme awarded 17 grants, from 33 proposals, to CSOs in five townships across the region. Most of the proposals that were approved relate to job creation for young people and women, small business development and support to small-scale fishermen in the rural towns where CSOs are operating.

Looking ahead

The Delta programme continues to work towards increased coordination and knowledge sharing with regional government, the private sector, and civil society organisations, with the aim of consolidating results and reinforcing sustainability. In 2017, LIFT began supporting the government's plans for land allocation in Pyapon with the extension of the Delta RISE project. This will support newly landed households and the surrounding populations with extension and advisory services, as well as links to financial institutions. GRET is conducting land tenure assessments in selected sites in the region in order to support the government's plans.

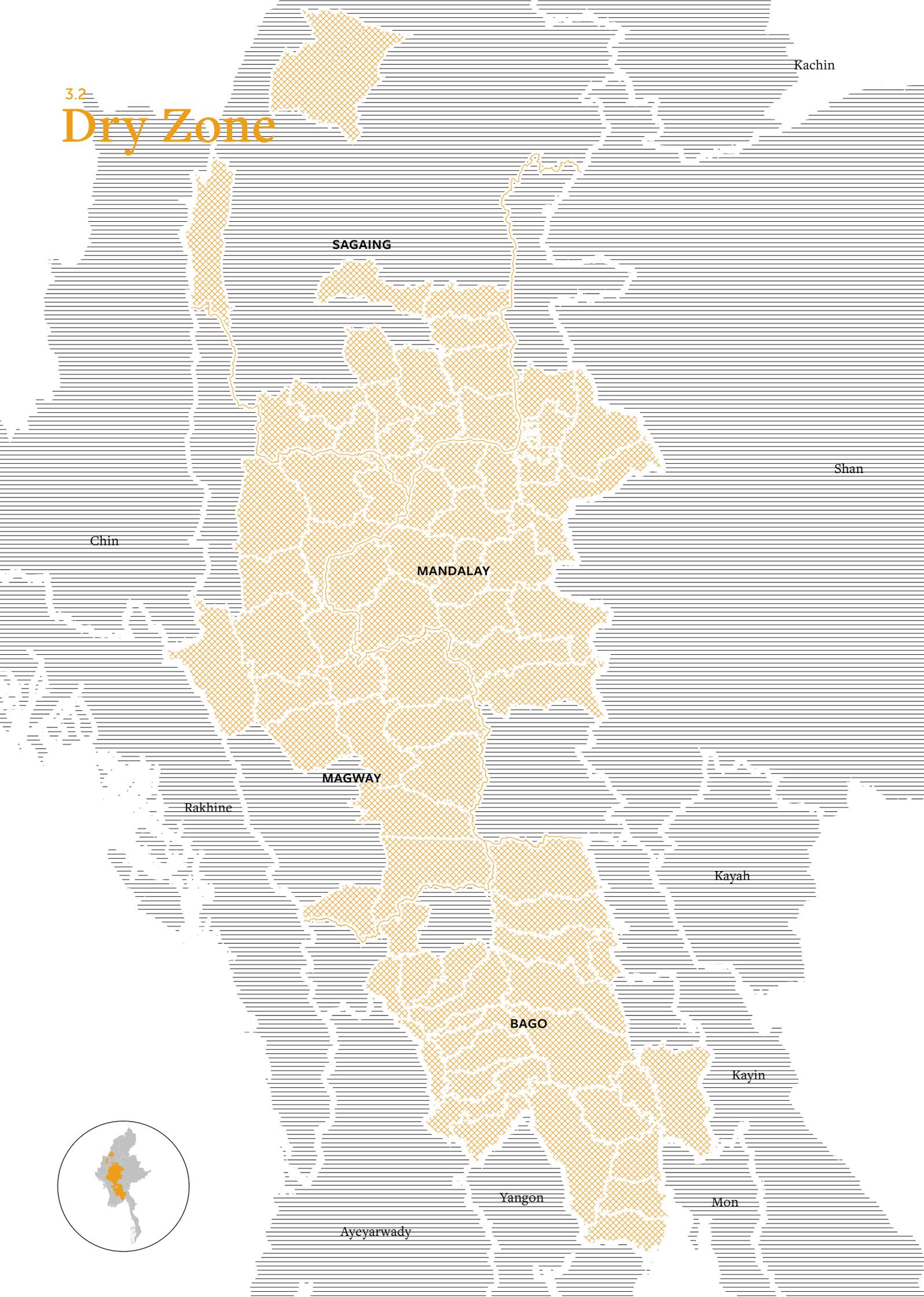
The Development of the Seed Sector project will work with, and support, government seed farms and the Patheingyi seed testing facilities. A seed sector platform will be managed directly by the Department of Agriculture to improve coordination and collaboration in the seed sector and rice value chain in the Ayeyarwady Delta.

LIFT's strategic partnership with NAG is working to improve the management of inshore fisheries with an inclusive process. The aim is to bring communities and regional government together to develop positive changes in fishery legislation and the introduction of community co-management models. The project has built collaborative relations with the regional government, parliamentarians and communities. Some of the project-supported fishery development associations obtained fishing licenses collectively and made a profit. In 2017, the project supported the drafting of the *Fresh Water Fishery Law* amendment, after several consultations with relevant stakeholders in six districts of Ayeyarwady Region. The amendment aims to grant better access to fishing grounds for smallholder farmers who do not have the financial capacity to access the present tender system. It also includes sections related to fishery co-management models. The amended law is expected to be presented to the regional parliament in March 2018.

In November, LIFT and partner organisations met with regional government representatives for a coordination workshop on nutrition. This was the first time that LIFT and its regional nutrition implementing partners had met with Ayeyarwady government representatives from three different ministries to discuss collaborative approaches to nutrition outcomes. LIFT considers interministerial coordination essential to achieving good nutrition outcomes in Myanmar. By bringing together representatives from the Ayeyarwady Ministries of Social Welfare and Relief Resettlement; Health and Sports; Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, workshop attendees had the opportunity to inform each other about nutrition-related projects, discuss common goals and challenges, and find opportunities for collaboration. Representatives of regional government will conduct a visit to Save the Children's project in Labutta in 2018, to learn more about MCCT and SBCC delivery modalities. The government's recent establishment of a nutrition sector coordination group and agreement with the World Bank to spend USD 100 million on nutrition in the Ayeyarwady Region and Shan State will bring more support to nutrition in the Delta from 2018.

3.2

Dry Zone



◀ **Figure 3.4**
LIFT-funded projects in
the Dry zone 2017

Context

LIFT's current Dry Zone programme began at the end of 2015 and is implemented in villages that lie between Pakokku and Mahlaing townships in the 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.

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.³⁶

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 pigeon pea and chickpea crops are grown in the Dry Zone. Lack of water and low quality seeds are the main barriers to improving agricultural production and making it more profitable. Sub-surface water resources are available in the Dry Zone, but are not sufficiently utilised. Current seed production covers only one per cent of the country's demand for pulse seeds. Farmers also lack quality agriculture and livestock advisory services. They are stuck in a "low-level equilibrium trap—with low inputs, low quality output, low productivity, and low returns".³⁷

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.

For those who stay, finding employment outside of agriculture is an important livelihood strategy. Myanmar's population census shows that non-farming employment opportunities vary across the Dry Zone.³⁸ Magwe Region is more rural and more dominated by agriculture than Mandalay Region. Just over half of the employed population in Magwe are working in agriculture, forestry or fishing; in Mandalay Region the figure is lower than one-third.

In many Dry Zone regions, draught animals have been replaced by tractors, which improve agricultural production and create non-farm-related 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.³⁹

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 smallholders and the landless
- | Improve nutrition, sanitation and hygiene practices

Both agricultural and community-based interventions are purposefully built into the Dry Zone programme, since in LIFT's 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. For example, 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.

Highlights in 2017

Enabling farmers to 'step up' and increase resilience by improving agriculture

LIFT's partner interventions provide farmers with improved varieties of known crops as well as new crops with potential for high economic benefits. Farmers, retailers and government extension officers receive training on good practices to grow improved crops and varieties to sustain higher yields with lower risks. One of these practices is the use of green manure that improves soil fertility, and, through carbon sequestration, contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gases. Attempts by LIFT-supported projects in the past to improve soil structure and fertility by compost have not yielded sustainable results. In most cases, Dry Zone farmers abandoned the labour-intensive compost making as soon as the project closed.

Golden Plain, a national agriculture NGO implementing a project titled Restoring Unproductive Soil to Get Sustainable Yield by Green Manuring and Modified Cropping System in Dry Zone, uses sunnhemp as green manure to produce inexpensive, low-labour organic matter directly in the fields. Two years of implementation show this has reduced the risk of crop failures, created cost savings in ploughing and increased yields by 30 to 50 per cent. The cost savings are sufficient to cover the increased costs of MMK 74,000 MMK/ha (USD54/ha) for seeds, sowing, ploughing and mulching of the green manure crop. Sunnhemp has weed suppressing characteristics that

36 A Nutrition and Food Security Assessment of the Dry Zone of Myanmar in June and July 2013, Save the Children, WFP and MALI, 2014.

37 The Ageing of Myanmar's Farmer Population: Implications for Agriculture and Food Security; HelpAge and Oxford Institute of Population Ageing; 2017

38 Census Atlas Myanmar, The 2014 Myanmar Population And Housing Census; Department of Population; Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population With technical assistance from UNFPA

39 Ten Years of Technological change in Dry Zone Agriculture, Michigan State University, Zaw Min Naing, 2017

Implementing partners	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, Yesagyio	Agriculture advisory services
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Livestock	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyio	Policy work in animal health services and livestock trade
Golden Plain	Pakokku, Yesagyio	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, Yesagyio	Village-based social protection schemes and pilot of electronic cash transfers
Alliance	Mandalay, Pyinoolwin, Patheingyi, Butalin, Chaung U, Kyauk Myaung, Kyaukse, Myinmu, Sagaing, Shwebo, Sint gaing, Tada-U, Wetlet, Yinmabin	Financial services
Ar Yone Oo	Kale	Financial services
Border Development Association	Monywa	Financial services
Township Coop Association	Myingyan, Natogyi	Financial services
Fullerton	Mandalay, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Pyawbwe, Natogyi	Financial services
GRET	Budalin, Monywa, Yinmabin	Financial services
PGMF	Aunglan, Ayadaw, Chauk, Chaung-U, Kyaukpadaung, Magway, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Minbu, Myaing, Myaung, Myingyan, Myothit, Natmauk, Natogyi, Nyaung-U, Pakokku, Pwintphyu, Salin, Sinbaungwe, Taungdwingyi, Taungtha, Yesagyio, Yenangyaung	Financial services
Proximity Designs	Aunglan, Chaung-U, Magway, Kyaukse, Mahlaing, Minbu, Monywa, Myingyan, Myothit, Natmauk, Natogyi, Pakokku, Pale, Pyawbwe, Shwebo, Taungtha, Thazi, Wetlet, Yesagyio, Yinmabin	Financial services
YOMA Bank	Aunglan, Magway, Minbu, Pakokku, Kyaukse, Mandalay town (Kywelsekan, Zaycho, Manawharry, Mandalay Industrial Zone), Meiktila, Myingyan, Pyinoolwin, Kale, Monywa, Shwebo, Pynmana (Naypyitaw)	Agricultural equipment hire purchase
Save the Children	Pakokku, Yesagyio, Mahlaing	Randomized Control Trial (RCT)—nutrition behaviour change
Vision Fund	Mandalay, Kyaukse, Madaya, Patheingyi, Pyinoolwin, Sintgaing, Monywa, Sagaing, Shwebo, Chauk, Watlet	Financial services
Social Vision Service	Wundwin	Financial services
MPSWA	Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha	Nutrition behaviour change
UN-Habitat	Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yesagyio	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Pact	Seikphyu, Kyaukpadaung, Yaysagyio, Yenanchaung, PwintByu, Myingyan, Salin	CSO small grant fund
IWMI	Myinmu	Irrigation
UNOPS	Myinmu	Irrigation
LodeStar/SPPRG	Myaung	Social protection

◀ **Table 3.2**
LIFT-funded projects in
the Dry zone 2017

reduce the need to use herbicides in the cash crops that are planted subsequently. Farmer interest has surged. In 2017, 831 farmers grew 220 hectares of sunnhemp, up from 84 farmers on 34 hectares in 2016. Demand for seeds has exceeded the government's supply. In 2017, 18 project farmers started to produce sunnhemp seeds in order to meet this demand, and seed was produced on 9.6 hectares. Based on these convincing results, Golden Plain has successfully engaged with policy makers and in 2018 the government will increase production of green manure seeds in Kayah and Shan States at its seed stations.

The **International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)**⁴⁰ promotes improved varieties of Dry Zone crops—mung bean, sesame, cotton, paddy—and showcases good agricultural practices. It also promotes conservation agriculture to farmers on demonstration plots and at field days. IFDC's reach continues to grow: in 2017 the number of demonstration plots grew from 64 to 159, and the number of field days from 21 to 40. More than 16,000 farmers from 851 villages have participated in IFDC activities. Twenty-eight per cent of these farmers are women, who own and manage their own land. The private sector has begun replicating the project's activities. In 2017, retailers continued to develop their own demonstration plots and field days for farmers in cooperation with government extension service providers, in order to demonstrate new varieties, improved crop management, their services and machinery. In 2017, retailers held 38 field days, which were attended by more than 3,200 farmers. The project's business enhancement grants have led to retailers being able to introduce 22 new products and services to farmers.⁴¹ IFDC is creating competitive markets that encourage retailers to improve both their businesses and the services they provide. As a result, retailers achieve higher revenues and farmers have access to more products and services.

IFDC works to include Department of Agriculture (DoA) staff in their project activities. In 2017, DoA attended more than 2,200 project-related activities, an increase of 90 per cent since work began in 2016. Around 44 per cent of the DoA participants are women.

Farmers often have the impression that their yields are low because of poor quality inputs. IFDC conducted a field study in 2017, which demonstrated farmers' misperceptions about the quality of fertiliser inputs. Fertilisers from retail shops working with IFDC were analysed and showed no evidence of adulteration and only very mild granule degradation, in spite of poor storage conditions: high temperatures, high humidity and lack of ventilation. The study was presented at the National Soil Fertility and Fertiliser Conference in Nay Pyi Taw in October 2017. IFDC was also asked to conduct a fertiliser value chain and quality assessment in other parts of the Myanmar, to better inform MoALI policy recommendations.

In 2017, **Terre des Hommes' (TdH)** hydroponics project was extended to June 2018 in order

to use the technical experience and knowledge of the team to pilot a new extension approach, which will use smaller greenhouses. TdH provides technical training to beneficiaries who contribute to the cost of the greenhouse materials. The project has developed synergies with the other LIFT partners. In the villages where both UN-Habitat and Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA) are implementing nutrition and WASH activities, communities' understanding of good nutrition and the value of eating vegetables free of pesticides led to faster adoption of hydroponic greenhouses than in other villages.

Access to finance

The work of LIFT's financial inclusion programme partners in the Dry Zone supports farmers and helps them access opportunities for improved productivity and incomes. LIFT-supported micro-finance institutions (MFIs) provide credit to farmers in all the townships where LIFT provides technical assistance to their farming enterprises. The MFI loans of MMK 140,000 per acre (USD 103 per acre) are important in the Dry Zone, since the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank loans for non-paddy crops are only MMK 40,000 per acre (USD 30 per acre). This is a fraction of what farmers need to grow these crops. By December 2017, around 838,000 clients had received loans worth around USD 273 million. More than half were invested in agriculture and livestock and one-third in small businesses.

Increased labour costs in the Dry Zone pressurise farmers to mechanise. A Michigan State University (MSU) household survey study conducted in 2017 found that daily wages for labourers grew by one-third between 2012 and 2017. The number of households using machinery for crop production grew from 20 per cent to 90 per cent. Another factor influencing mechanisation is the availability of finance. LIFT's Agribusiness Finance Programme has grown quickly since it was launched in 2016. The benefits for smallholder farmers are clearly visible in the villages. Only six per cent of households own the machinery that they use in their fields. Rural entrepreneurs are developing machinery rental businesses and moving their equipment across wide areas to provide smallholder farmers with the equipment they need during their growing seasons. The MSU study shows that even large farms are relying on machinery rental services for almost 80 per cent of their mechanised farm work. The increase in mechanisation is improving productivity for farmers while also developing non-farm employment and generating income from machinery rental businesses.

The AFP loans can also be used for irrigation purposes, but no dealers have yet been identified. In many villages smallholder farmers are using hand-dug wells and furrow irrigation to grow high-value crops like eggplants, bitter gourds and okra. If they used modern irrigation equipment they could use water more efficiently and so easily intensify production. The financial

40 IFDC is implementing a project to empower the private sector based on a public-private partnership led approach. Working with 55 agricultural retailers, the project reaches 30,000 farmers in more than 600 villages.

41 New products introduced included drip irrigation, hand tractors, sprinklers, soil analysis kits, crop threshers, groundnut shelling machines, pH meters, new seed varieties, organic fertilisers and crop production products.

products that would allow farmers to do this are available through MFIs, but modern irrigation technology is not yet well known in the villages. In the first half of 2017, the Japan International Cooperation Agency visited LIFT's partner TdH to discuss sprinkler irrigation in the Dry Zone. Together they could offer a wide variety of solutions to farmers in order to intensify production. The next step is to engage with the LIFT-funded BBC Media Action project to document these technologies and make them more widely known to farmers through television and other media distribution.

Improving livestock services

The main focus of the livestock project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Dry Zone has been to assist the government in reforming policies that enable private sector and market participants to operate more freely, while also ensuring an appropriate degree of government oversight. As a result, there is now a policy that recognises the role of village-based Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) in providing user-pays basic veterinary services to rural smallholders. The end result for smallholder livestock owners will be better services, less sickness and death of their livestock, and higher net incomes.

Myanmar rural smallholders have the largest number of cattle herds in mainland Southeast Asia and so are perfectly placed to supply live cattle and beef to expanding markets in China, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. But until late 2017, their export was technically illegal, with cattle smuggling common, and smallholders benefitting little from this trade. This project is helping to bring government, farmers and traders together to develop a suite of policies and regulations to best take advantage of the trade. The last national livestock survey was conducted 20 years ago and the lack of knowledge vis-à-vis the number of livestock in Myanmar prevents the government from developing policy on livestock and prevents the private sector from planning investments. In 2017, FAO designed a national livestock survey at the request of the government. The government will conduct and fund the USD 1 million survey in 2018. More than 20,000 data collectors will survey up to 1.5 million households. Data is expected by mid-2018.

Nutrition

Save the Children, in collaboration with the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association (MNMA), is implementing LEGACY, the Dry Zone's primary nutrition project. The project works in 338 villages in three Dry Zone townships where the stunting rate for children aged under two is 26 per cent. To reduce this figure, the project supports pregnant women and mothers with children under two with monthly cash transfers of MMK 15,000 (USD 11) and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) sessions on nutrition. The project is built around a randomised control

	Number of Townships	Loans disbursed (USD)	Total clients	Female clients
Alliance Myanmar	22	35,139,767	148,005	122,134
Ar Yone Oo	1	1,532,384	8,378	8,317
Border Development Association	1	1,983,572	7,533	7,526
BRAC	9	9,160,523	50,977	50,915
CCA-Myingyan TSC	1	9,108,511	36,039	14,021
CCA-Natogyi TSC	1	3,710,544	16,231	5,391
Early Dawn	1	1,624,299	3,982	3,982
IFC-Fullerton Myanmar	6	12,414,089	29,420	26,351
Gret Microfinance (Dry Zone)	3	1,704,049	11,370	9,173
Myanmar Heart Development Organization	1	1,509,557	8,375	8,137
Pact Global Microfinance Fund (*)	24	154,107,868	351,482	348,043
Proximity Finance	23	12,461,919	47,819	28,691
SATHAPANA LIMITED	18	1,307,868	38,555	30,680
Social Vision Service	1	1,439,712	7,747	7,671
The Sun Institute	1	1,442,697	8,112	7,970
Vision Fund Myanmar	15	25,022,767	64,466	55,441
Total		273,670,124	838,491	734,443

trial to measure the impact of SBCC on nutrition outcomes, comparing them to using cash transfers alone, or using neither.

In 2017, more than 8,500 women received monthly cash transfers and 96 per cent of women said they controlled the use of the cash and used it to buy food and cover health costs.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is conducting the randomised control trial research. The nutrition of mothers and children is greatly improved in villages that receive SBCC on nutrition. This is also the case in villages where women receive cash only, but improvements are greater when SBCC occurs. Newborn care indicators demonstrate an increase in the proportion of mothers visiting a skilled health

▲ **Table 3.4**
Financial inclusion in the Dry zone

worker at least once; this change is only observed in villages where mothers receive both cash and SBCC. The randomised control trial research on dietary diversity shows that women and children receiving cash and SBCC are consuming a more diverse range of foods than mothers and children who receive cash only, and these women and children have a more diverse diet than the control population. Minimum meal frequency, minimum acceptable diet, iron-rich food consumption, and adoption of breastfeeding have all increased among populations benefitting from the nutrition interventions compared to the control group.

The IPA survey and LIFT's mid-term evaluation found that consumption of packaged snack foods has increased. Information about the low nutritional value of snack foods and healthy alternatives will be included in SBCC messaging in 2018.

LIFT's second nutrition project in the Dry Zone is implemented by the Myanmar Professional Social Worker Association (MPSWA) in three townships not covered by the LEGACY project. The project does not deliver cash. The project forms community-based nutrition promotion groups, which are trained to deliver nutrition information to communities. Results show that the women and families reached by this project significantly improved their nutrition awareness and have adopted improved nutrition and food hygiene practices. Around 16 per cent of the groups performed exceptionally well and have been given additional training to develop small-scale nutrition support planning. The project's exit strategy includes finding ways to keep the volunteer groups working on a reduced task list.

The MPSWA's mid-term review found that communities would benefit from more innovative gardens, able to produce nutritious food all year round. LIFT therefore included the hydroponic gardens promoted by Terre des Hommes (TdH) in the same villages where MPSWA is working on nutrition and UN-Habitat is working on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Water, sanitation and hygiene

By the end of 2017, UN-Habitat had completed 69 per cent of the planned village water supply systems. Most households now have a tap at their house and better quality water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene, including water for fly-proof latrines. Handwashing has increased, there are fewer cases of diarrhoea, and householders spend less time collecting water. The project is committed to achieving Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) in all project villages. The hygiene awareness activities supported by hygiene promotion volunteers have been intensive and resulted in a 34 per cent reduction in open defecation practices.

Social pensions

A major achievement in 2017 was the beginning of the government's countrywide rollout of pensions to people aged over 90. With LIFT funding in 2016, HelpAge's project in the Dry Zone piloted the pensions before the

government's rollout. This pilot, combined with the advocacy work of HelpAge in Nay Pyi Taw, also funded by LIFT, contributed to the introduction of the national elderly pension scheme by the government in 2017. Local authorities are receptive to learning about social protection. The General Administration Department (GAD) has been engaged and village tract administrators are involved in all transactions to ensure they are distributed correctly. HelpAge continues to provide pensions for 475 people aged 85-90 years in Dry Zone project villages and in 2017 began providing bi-monthly grants to more than 2,000 people with disabilities.

Supporting people intending to migrate

LIFT's migration programme began in 2017 and reached 656 villages in 30 townships across seven states and regions, including Mandalay and Magway. In 2017, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) collaborated with the Government Technical College (GTC) in Myingyan and the Government Technical High School in Pakkoku to provide basic-level welding, electric wiring and diesel engine repairing courses. Thirteen local CSO partners supported IOM in learner mobilisation efforts and 145 people graduated, a completion rate of 97 per cent. Graduates from the GTC and Government Technical High School received skills certification from the Ministry of Education.

Looking ahead

Agricultural extension projects have begun to improve crop production, but there is a lot more to do. As long as farmers lack access to climate-smart irrigation techniques, they will continue to take risks, use fewer and less expensive inputs and achieve sub-optimal yields and incomes. Commercial production requires access to water, and irrigation must be climate-smart. Opportunities exist to collaborate with other players, such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program to introduce climate-smart irrigation techniques that Dry Zone farmers could use to 'step up' towards commercial production.

The Dry Zone's livestock development project has had an impact on the entire livestock industry in Myanmar. Progress with the government and the private sector benefit all livestock farmers, encouraging them to increase production and creating access to competitive markets. Building on the progress of CAHW and on the livestock baseline survey, new livestock projects and programmes will be able to benefit from the sound data and improved skills and motivation of the CAHW across the country. This opens windows of opportunity to improve livestock production in border areas and contribute to livelihoods development. More work is necessary on animal feed for village-based livestock as well as for commercial livestock. This will require working across states and regions, with livestock trade policy development being particularly relevant for border areas.

3.4

Rakhine

Chin

Magway

RAKHINE



◀ **Figure 3.5**

LIFT activity in Rakhine
2017

Context

Inter-communal violence between ethnic Rakhine and Muslim communities in 2012 led to large internal displacements of people. Over 120,000 people who were displaced in 2012 still live in camps, primarily around the Rakhine State capital, Sittwe. In October 2016, violent conflict in northern Rakhine caused more than 70,000 people to flee to Bangladesh. The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Kofi Annan and mandated by the Government of Myanmar, 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. But its release date coincided with the outbreak of renewed violence on a large scale, resulting in people being displaced at an unprecedented level. Almost 700,000 Muslims from Rakhine have fled to Bangladesh since August 2017. Around 27,000 Rakhine Buddhists and people from ethnic minority groups were also displaced, although most of these people have subsequently returned. Tensions with the UN and INGOs are high, as they are viewed as being biased towards the Muslim community. It is estimated that around 200,000 Muslim villagers remain in central Rakhine and 120,000 Muslims in IDP camps. The number of Muslim villagers remaining in northern Rakhine cannot be confirmed as access has been denied since August 2017, but it is estimated to be in the range of 100,000 to 120,000 people.

The Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission on Rakhine State report points to several contributing factors to intercommunal tensions. Rakhine State remains one of the least developed areas of Myanmar, with an estimated 78 per cent of people living on less than USD 1.25 a day.⁴² According to UNICEF, nearly 50 per cent of children under five suffer from stunting.⁴³ The unemployment rate is over 10 per cent and labour force participation is the lowest in the country, with just under 59 per cent of the population aged over 15 economically active, compared to 67 per cent nationally.⁴⁴ Rakhine is generally far behind the national averages on most indicators and there are also many grievances between ethnic Rakhine and Burmese, which is a second, less well-known conflict that is also affecting development and peace in the State. Rakhine's population depends on fishing, agriculture and casual labour for their livelihoods, with 26 per cent reporting casual labour as their primary income source.⁴⁵ Labour migration is becoming a key driver of rural transition in Rakhine. LIFT projects observe a "continuous movement of individuals in and out of villages",⁴⁶ while others speak of an "exodus"⁴⁷ of working-age villagers. In addition to this, Rakhine is shaken almost annually by cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal and widespread flooding.

LIFT works in close coordination with the international development and humanitarian

community in Myanmar and subscribes to the objectives of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine report. Analysts⁴⁸ and the international community agree 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.

Rakhine programme

Several of UNOPS's and LIFT's interventions in Rakhine over the past five years correspond with recommendations set out by the Kofi Annan-led Commission. LIFT's work on economic and social development, such as socially responsible investment for the special economic zone in Kyaukphyu, demand-driven vocational training systems, improved agricultural production through protection of paddy land from salt water intrusion, mechanisation and use of better technologies, and access to rural finance are key pillars of LIFT's strategy in Rakhine and recommended for the state's development by the advisory commission. LIFT's nutrition programme, implemented since 2014 in three townships, can provide valuable insights relevant to the recommendation for a statewide programme to combat malnutrition. Since 2016, LIFT has contributed to bridging the humanitarian and development gap within the IDP camps of Rakhine by providing vocational skills training for young people.

LIFT follows a conflict-sensitive and inclusive approach to Rakhine, pursuing all four of LIFT's purpose-level outcomes:

- ‡ Improved policies and public expenditures
- ‡ Increased incomes of rural households
- ‡ Decreased vulnerability
- ‡ Improved nutrition

LIFT strives to be transparent about its work with all stakeholders. LIFT works for all communities in Rakhine and this is criticised by some. Nevertheless, LIFT 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.

LIFT's implementing partners in Rakhine are the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children, Oxfam, Better Life Organization, CARE, Wan Lark, PGMF, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Through its private sector work, LIFT funds Mercy Crops, East-West Seed, and Swisscontact in Rakhine.

Highlights in 2017**Responding to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine**

The violence in 2016 and 2017 and the resulting displacement of people changed Rakhine's landscape and LIFT's way of working.

LIFT's Fund Board acted promptly after the outbreak of violence and in October 2017

42 World Bank Group, 'Myanmar: Ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a time of transition', 2014

43 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 'Rakhine State: A Snapshot of Child Wellbeing', 2013

44 The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, 'The Union Report: Census Report Volume 2', dop.gov.mm, May 2015, p.29, Web.

45 Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT) Fund and CARE International, Myanmar, 'Tat Lan Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Program: Baseline Assessment', November 2014, Print.

46 RC Annual Report 2016

47 Save the Children Annual Report 2016

48 Refer to a recent statement by the International Crisis Group on the dynamics of the recent violence and the need to take up the Rakhine Commission's recommendations at the soonest to address the root causes of the conflict: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar/myanmar-tips-new-crisis-after-rakhine-state-attacks>.

Implementing partners	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	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

requested a new call for proposals be issued to ensure that humanitarian and development needs of all people in Rakhine are addressed in a coordinated way for greater stability, interdependence, prosperity and growth. LIFT accepted proposals that addressed access to safe livelihoods and nutrition in a conflict-sensitive way. Applicants needed to follow the agreed Operational Principles for Rakhine of the international community in Myanmar to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach. LIFT received project applications from 23 organisations with an overall funding request of USD 41 million. Sectors covered by the proposals are microfinance, nutrition, skills, farm-based livelihoods and anti-trafficking. Despite the challenging context, many organisations have the capacity and drive to support vulnerable people in Rakhine.

LIFT's ongoing work in northern Rakhine, which was mostly inhabited by Muslim populations, has been stalled since 25 August, 2017. With the large exodus of the Muslim population and lack of access, LIFT re-examined its operations in northern Rakhine, looking to unlock stalled funds to support vulnerable Buddhist and Muslim communities in accessible areas of Central Rakhine. LIFT continues to observe the situation in northern Rakhine and if access were granted, a scoping mission would explore if and how LIFT can meaningfully address the needs of the population who remain.

Dr Pa Pa Win, LIFT's Rakhine Programme Manager, won the UNOPS global annual award for Values and Principles, in recognition of having advanced embodied UN values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity, particularly in Rakhine's demanding context

Operational impact of the violence in northern Rakhine on LIFT projects

LIFT's purpose is to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of poor communities in Myanmar. For LIFT, this means including people in interventions who are hard to reach, whether they are in remote locations or areas affected by conflict. Except for central Myanmar, almost all ethnic areas in Myanmar continue to experience conflict. Development work in these areas demands different approaches by implementing partners. They must sensibly shift their focus from plain pursuit of project targets to progressing work in a conflict-sensitive way, without doing harm or adding unintended negative effects in an already tense context. In Rakhine, the international community has much to learn from the past when most of its development aid was directed to northern Rakhine, which had a predominantly Muslim population. This led to resentment among the Buddhist community in Rakhine, who felt overlooked by development programming when they too suffer severe poverty and have conflict with

▲ **Table 3.5**
LIFT-funded projects in Rakhine 2017

◀ **Table 3.5**
LIFT-funded projects in
Rakhine 2017

the Burmese government. It is important that future development and humanitarian work be inclusive of all people in need in Rakhine.

Work at this intersection of humanitarian and development needs is costly, continuously delayed, and in need of regular adaptation to changing dynamics. Programme targets need to be modest and the risk of losing investments acknowledged and managed. The situation in northern Rakhine demonstrated this clearly to LIFT.

A new LIFT project in Rathedaung Township, providing livelihood support to Muslim and Buddhist villagers, was just getting off the ground in 2017. A goat bank was established and 70 Muslim and 90 ethnic Rakhine purchased locally-reared goats with LIFT's support and 92 Muslim and 105 ethnic Rakhine participated in livestock management training conducted by the township Livestock, Veterinary and Breeding Department with the support of the project. Women's participation in these activities was high. The project's activities stopped after the violence in August. Before then, Rathedaung's population was about one-third Muslim and two-thirds Buddhist. During the military operation in 2017, 23 of the 28 Muslim villages were destroyed and their population displaced. Five Muslim villages remain but are subject to intensified restrictions, further isolation and marginalisation. There is still no access to the area, but based on the continued refugee flows to Bangladesh, Rathedaung could become a township with a predominantly Buddhist population, markedly different to the previous population mix of Muslims and Buddhists. LIFT's Fund Board observed the developments in Rathedaung closely and after a suspension of seven months, decided to redirect stalled funds for this township towards providing services to vulnerable Muslim and Buddhist communities who are accessible in central Rakhine and IDP camps.

LIFT had also started vocational skills training in northern Rakhine where most of the youth cannot access public vocational schools due to restrictions of movement and their lack of identification documents. The start-up of this work was delayed after the violence in October 2016. Only in March 2017, the Government of Myanmar approved the start of operations. Implementation began quickly and the first batch of trainees graduated before June 2017. Renewed violence in August 2017 halted all activities. As with the project in Rathedaung, LIFT is now redesigning this project to direct these stalled funds to accessible areas with Muslim and Buddhist communities.

LIFT's progress in areas less affected by conflict in Rakhine

Most of LIFT's projects in central and southern Rakhine, which represents the majority of LIFT's programme portfolio in Rakhine, could progress without major interruptions throughout 2017. Strong results were achieved by LIFT's financial inclusion work and LIFT's Tat

Lan programme, which has been in operation since 2013 and is now in its second phase, due to end in December 2018. **Tat Lan** is a sustainable food security and livelihoods programme committed to building the resilience of 259 environmentally vulnerable and impoverished village communities in remote locations. LIFT works towards strengthening the resilience of communities by strengthening their current livelihoods against natural hazards, climate change and adverse trends. New to LIFT's portfolio in Rakhine is a focus on technical and vocational skills training in line with LIFT's strategy of supporting people to 'step out' of agriculture into more productive sectors of Myanmar's or Rakhine's economy.

Improved income from climate resilient agriculture and new technologies

Annually, LIFT's project townships face violent storms, powerful sea surges, king tides, and torrential monsoon rains that flood the plains. Villagers state that natural hazards have become more frequent and erratic, putting additional strain and risk on their livelihoods. To build climate change and livelihood resilience in 259 vulnerable villages, LIFT projects have built 260 kilometres of embankments to protect 33,204 acres of paddy fields, and provided training on new agricultural techniques, including the multiplication by farmers of climate smart rice varieties which are high yielding and tolerant to flooding and salt water intrusion. Half of the 260 kilometres of embankments were built in 2017. In Myebon and Minbya, over 77 per cent of farmers trained on new technologies state that they use one or more of the agriculture techniques they learned from the Tat Lan programme's activities. USD 5.2 million was invested to achieve this. On average, a farmer in Rakhine holds three to five acres, so it is calculated that the protected acres benefitted between 6,600 and 11,000 households, who receive income of USD 100-300 per acre. For 32,890 acres, this translates into an estimated average increased income of USD 6.6 million for Rakhine villagers. Embankments can last up to 10 years and deliver well in terms of value for money. The Department of Irrigation is consulted on embankment development to prioritise construction according to need.

LIFT projects build embankments through cash-for-work programmes. More than 37,000 workers have been employed and more than 55 per cent of these workers are women. Women and men receive equal pay for this work, in communities where women are usually paid less than men for the same work. Cash for work provides valuable income to rural Rakhine villagers during a period when it is hard to find work within the village.

Stepping out: Vocational training for Muslim and Rakhine Youth

In 2016, LIFT expanded its strategy for Rakhine to support people who were aiming to 'step out' of agriculture with new vocational skills

training programming. LIFT aims to provide vocational skills training to people who cannot access public services, due to distance to public schools or restrictions of their movement. Vocational training in four IDP camps in Sittwe began in 2016 and show good progress. 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. While most of 2016 focused on getting LIFT's skills projects off the ground, at the end of 2017, 1,647 trainees had completed short courses on life skills. Around half were women. 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. So far, 410 young people have completed mobile vocational skills training. Half of these students are women. More Muslim women have expressed interest in joining the training program to learn new skills and establish businesses. Some camps accepted mixed classes, while others insisted on gender-segregated classes.

During LIFT's field visits it became clear that there is a need to improve the quality control of IDP camp-based skills programmes. Projects need to make many adjustments when implementing projects with people affected by conflict. LIFT's project working in IDP camps decided to recruit and train displaced people living in the camps to become skills trainers as external, Buddhist trainers who are interested to work in IDP camps face obstacles to obtaining authorisations to access the camps, particularly after periods of violence; they lack the language skills of the local communities; are not accepted by the IDP community, or face intimidation by their own communities for working with Muslim people. Although there are advantages to building training capacities within camps there are also constraints such as the lack of quality materials, tools and electricity. The project was advised that improvements to the course delivery were needed and the project is exploring external certification mechanisms to improve quality control.

LIFT also aims to strengthen public technical and vocational training (TVET) in Rakhine by advising the Rakhine State Government on how TVET schools can be transformed to meet the needs of current and future employers in a way that is inclusive of all communities of Rakhine. The implementation of these objectives started towards the end of 2017.

Access to credit and saving

Since 2013, LIFT has supported village saving and loan associations (VSLA) in Rakhine. LIFT's investment has supported the creation of 371 VSLA groups across 203 villages that saved more than USD 1.3 million and borrowed around USD 2.3 million. In 2017, 78 additional

	Number of Townships	Loans disbursed (USD)	Total clients	Female clients
Pact Global Microfinance Fund	8	10,474,453	55,783	55,783
Wan Lark	1	1,231,299	7,156	6,915
Total		11,705,751	62,939	62,698

VSLA groups were formed. The repayment rate is 87 per cent and 82 per cent of beneficiaries are women. Financial literacy programming is a priority for the VSLA programme. Specific financial literacy tools are designed for children and youth using graphic novels and children's storybooks with financial education themes.

LIFT also supports Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) and Wan Lark, a Rakhine-based local microfinance institution that has reached more than 59,000 households in 1,917 villages. This is a sharp increase from the 34,062 households in 462 villages at the end of 2016. In 2017, USD 10.4 million of loans were disbursed compared to 4.5 million in 2016 and 98 per cent of borrowers remain women. Ninety-two per cent of the beneficiaries report that loans are used to start or upgrade small businesses.

By December 2017, around 63,000 clients had received microfinance loans worth almost USD 12 million.

Improved nutrition

The full rollout of Tat Lan's nutrition component was a significant achievement in 2017. An additional 102 villages and two towns in Minbya and Mybeon are now covered. To date, more than 10,743 pregnant women and mothers in Rakhine have received maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) of MMK 13,000 (USD 9.50) per month to spend on healthcare and nutritious food for themselves and their babies. The majority of the MCCT beneficiaries reached were new to the programme in 2017 when the project was scaled up. More than 28,000 pregnant women and mothers of children under two are reached with awareness raising activities on nutritious feeding practices during pregnancy and after childbirth. Tat Lan's nutrition intervention has proven to contribute to increased knowledge of the importance of exclusively breastfeeding babies from birth to six months, with an increase from 28 per cent to 59 per cent of households demonstrating knowledge of age-appropriate nutrition in diets. Starting from July 2017, the transfer rate has been increased to MMK 15,000 (USD 11) to account for the increased cost of food. In 2017, LIFT also began planning the introduction of fortified rice to Rakhine.

▲ **Table 3.6**
Financial inclusion in Rakhine

MCCT were piloted in LIFT's Rakhine programme in 2014 and then scaled up in LIFT's Rakhine, Delta, and Dry Zone programmes. In 2017, the Government of Myanmar adopted a full rollout of the approach in Chin State. In 2017, the Government of Myanmar also announced plans to provide full MCCT coverage for Rakhine. Payments started in early 2018, to Buddhist and Muslim villagers and Muslim IDPs in Rakhine State. Myanmar's Director General of Social Welfare, Dr San San Aye, visited mothers in isolated LIFT villages to assess mothers' knowledge of essential nutrition during the critical first 1,000 days of life. "The mothers are very smart. They know the importance of colostrum and exclusive breast feeding for the first six months," Dr San San Aye said. The Government of Myanmar aims for a universal and inclusive MCCT coverage in Rakhine and LIFT can share valuable experiences after four years of implementation.

In 2016, LIFT introduced substantial community-centred water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions to complement nutrition activities. Rakhine communities have limited access to safe water in part because of open air defecation, which contributes to water-borne diseases. When LIFT's Tat Lan programme started in 2013, only 11 per cent of households had improved access to safe freshwater sources, today 48 per cent have access to fresh water sources. More than 6,555 household latrines were constructed with LIFT's support by 2017. Households practicing safe hygiene practices rose from eight per cent to 32 per cent. Hygiene promotion and sanitation sensitisation packages complement infrastructure interventions of water pond renovations with filter systems and stilling wells, enabling villagers to enjoy potable water for the first time. WASH, particularly when delivered in combination with a nutrition component, is another long-term value for money effect of LIFT funding.

Looking ahead

LIFT's way forward in Rakhine for 2018 is threefold. Project activities in northern Rakhine are stalled and unused funds will be diverted to redesign provision of livelihood services to vulnerable and accessible Muslim and Buddhist communities in Central Rakhine and IDP camps. LIFT continues to monitor the situation in northern Rakhine and if access is granted a scoping mission would explore programming options in the context. LIFT will also explore options to provide relevant support to its original Muslim beneficiaries, now displaced in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

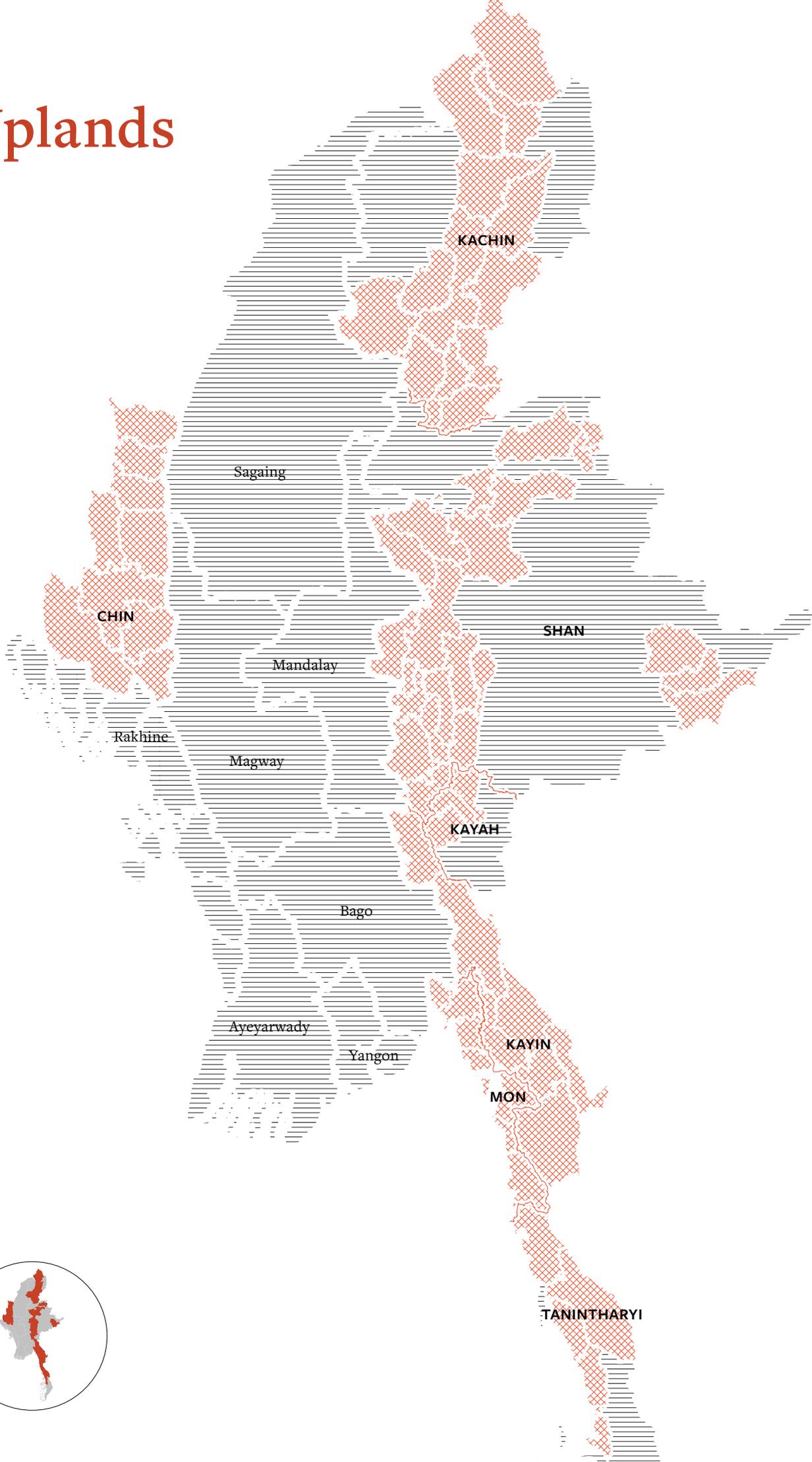
In 2018, new projects for Central Rakhine resulting from the call for proposals issued in December 2017 will be assessed and contracted.

Most of the existing projects in central and southern Rakhine continued operations in 2017 and are due to finish at the end of 2018. Projects will therefore focus on achieving their

remaining targets. In 2018, LIFT's technical and vocational training (TVET) project in Rakhine, in cooperation with the ILO, needs to gain momentum. The objective is to support a transformation of the public TVET system of Rakhine into a demand-driven system towards productive employment and poverty reduction. It aims for an integrated policy for skills development in Rakhine State that would prepare the workforce and local businesses for current and future skills needs, in a way that is inclusive of poor and rural households for all communities and closely linked with the private sector.

3.3

Uplands



◀ **Figure 3.6**
LIFT activity in the
Uplands 2017

Context

Myanmar's Upland region covers 55 per cent of the country's total surface area and is home to over 13 million people:⁴⁹ from the mountains along the south-eastern border with Thailand to the Shan Plateau, to the Myanmar Himalayas, to the Chin and Naga hills along the Indian border. LIFT's Uplands programme operates in Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, and in Tanintharyi Region. There are significant variations across the programme area. The poverty rate ranges from a low of 11 per cent in Kayah State to a high of 73 per cent in Chin State.⁵⁰ Malnutrition rates also vary across the Upland areas, with stunting affecting 41 per cent of children aged under five in Chin State and around 26 per cent of children under five in Kayin State.⁵¹

Myanmar's diverse ethnic minority groups populate most of the uplands. Since the country gained its independence, many of these ethnic minorities have been represented by ethnic armed groups (EAGs), which have demanded greater levels of autonomy from the Government of Myanmar. Some areas have long-term ceasefires in place. In others, EAGs remain engaged in armed conflict. The Uplands region includes displaced people living either in IDP camps or in villages they have moved to in order to escape conflict, where they have limited livelihood opportunities. The peace process is a key factor in securing better livelihoods for these communities in the long term.

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 also investing in perennial crops. Households in remote areas, where infrastructure is limited, face significant challenges accessing health, education, public services, extension services, finance and markets for agriculture products and economic development, as well as new knowledge and skills.

Uplands programme

LIFT's partners that contribute to 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 of 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 concentrates on three areas in particular:

1. In Chin State, there is a strong focus on nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension, in close collaboration with the government.
2. In Shan State, the focus is on financial inclusion, agriculture market-based approaches and private sector partnerships.
3. In the south-east, where there are ceasefire agreements and conflict sensitivity, 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.

Most of the Uplands programme's projects began in the second half of 2016, with an inception period until the end of that year. In 2017, several projects released the results of their baseline surveys and thematic studies on value chains, nutrition, vulnerability, the labour market and conflict sensitivity, which are informing development programming. Project activities progressed well in 2017. Additional projects were contracted mid-year: the Chin nutrition programme with the government and a consortium led by Save the Children with two of 3MDG's partners in Chin State, the Danish Red Cross (DRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and a project with The Border Consortium to support agriculture, nutrition and resilience in conflict-affected areas in the south-east.

Highlights in 2017

Building partnerships in Chin State

In February, LIFT launched the new Chin programme at an event in Hakha. The state's Chief Minister, other key state ministers, officials, the Fund Board, the EU Ambassador and all of LIFT'S implementing partners in Chin State attended. The event helped build strong partnerships with the state government and local institutions.

In March, the Chin government organised the Chin Development Forum in Hakha, with co-funding from LIFT. State government officials, parliamentarians, development partners and local civil society organisations (CSOs) met and discussed the government's strategic plans and priorities for the state.

Nutrition programme in Chin State

Reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) to implement a nutrition programme in Chin State was a major highlight of the first half of 2017. The programme, designed to achieve universal coverage, has two components: maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) and a social and behaviour change communications (SBCC) component that

49 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.

50 Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, SIDA, UNICEF and UNDP (2011), Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey in Myanmar (2009-2010): Poverty Profile, p.16.

51 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016, MoHS

Implementing partners	Location	Focus
ICRAF World Agroforestry Centre Partners: Yezin University of Forestry, Ecosystem Conservation and Community, Ar Yone Oo	Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw in Kachin State, Lashio, Namtu in Shan State	Supporting agriculture extension, oil value chain development and natural resource management
World Agroforestry Centre		
Partners: Yezin University of Forestry, Ecosystem Conservation and Community, Ar Yone Oo	Tedim, Chin State	Supporting nutrition-sensitive agriculture development, delivering nutrition education and supporting the development of women's rights and leadership
Pinlaung, Shan State	Supporting agro-forestry education and development	
Partners: Metta Development Foundation and GRET	Falam, Hakha, Tedim in Chin State, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Waingmaw in Kachin State, Lashio, Hopong, Hsihseng, Kutkai, Hseni, Pindaya, Pekhon 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
Proximity Designs (IDE)	Lawksawk, Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi in Shan State	Financial services
World Vision International Myanmar / Vision Fund Myanmar (VFM)		
Partner: World Vision Australia	Lashio, Hsipaw, Kengtung, Tarlay in Shan State, Loikaw, Demoso in Kayah State, Hpa-An in Kayin State	Financial services
PGMF	Kalaw, Kyaukme, Nawngkhio, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Taunggyi, Ywangan in Shan State	Financial services
Yoma Bank	Taunggyi in Shan State, Myeik in Tanintharyi Region	Financial services
GRET	Thantlang, Hakha, Falam, Tedim, Tonzang in Chin State	Supporting the legalisation of Chin MFI, which provides financial services
Department of Social Welfare (DSW)	All townships in Chin State	Nutrition social behaviour change communication and maternal and child cash transfers during the first one thousand 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
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, Ye 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
IOM	Chin and Mon States	TVET preparing for migration

◀ **Table 3.7**
LIFT-funded projects in
the Uplands 2017

Registration period	Payment started from	Number of registered pregnant women	Number of registered newborn children ⁵³	Total
June–July 2017	Mid-October	7,578	937	8,515
August–September 2017	End of November	8,737	1,941	10,678
October–November 2017	End of December	10,347	3,009	13,383

▶ **Table 3.8**
Number of beneficia-
ries in Chin State who
registered for MCCT for
the three first payments
in 2017

targets mothers and their families during a child's first 1,000 days. The MCCT programme is one of eight flagship social protection programmes within the Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP). It aims to empower pregnant and breastfeeding women with additional purchasing power to meet their unmet nutritional needs during their child's first 1,000 days, from conception through to the age of two.

The nutrition programme in Chin State is being funded for two years by LIFT and implemented by the government, with the understanding that the government will fund it from April 2019 onwards. LIFT's USD 9 million investment began in March 2017. A further grant was made to a consortium led by Save the Children with DRC and IRC to strengthen the government's capacity to deliver SBCC on nutrition alongside the cash transfers.

The Chin MCCT nutrition programme is ambitious, as the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) has no prior experience with programmes of this sort, or on this scale. DSW also had no office at the township level in Chin State. Human resources, offices, procedures and collaborations all had to be established. After several months, DSW had set up and equipped offices in the nine Chin townships, established a team in Nay Pyi Taw and recruited 24 case managers and a state coordinator for Chin State. To support DSW's team, LIFT recruited two experienced project support officers, based in Hakha and Nay Pyi Taw, to offer on-the-job training and direct support on coordination, operations, finance, database management, monitoring and reporting.

The baseline survey was designed by July and submitted to MSWRR's ethical review board. The survey was conducted in September and October before the first cash transfers were delivered. Baseline data was collected across Chin State from 2,585 pregnant women and women who had recently given birth in more than 200 wards and villages. Initial findings were shared with DSW and results were being analysed at the end of 2017.

Registration of pregnant women across all nine townships in Chin State started in June and continues on a monthly basis. The first cash transfers to women who registered in June and

July was paid from mid-October, after some initial delays. Women receive MMK 15,000 (USD 11) per month, paid bimonthly by cash transfer through the village tract administrator. The second bimonthly payment was made in December. By the end of 2017, the programme was reaching 13,383 women and children.⁵²

Mothers receiving cash payments will also receive regular nutrition awareness information to encourage them to adopt better behaviours vis-à-vis nutrition. However, in 2017 this important social behaviour change communication (SBCC) component of the project had started in only a few locations.

DSW prepared for SBCC delivery by organising training for 16 midwives with the State Public Health Department (DoPH), and these midwives cascaded the training to the township level, reaching 1,124 midwives and auxiliary midwives from 922 villages. The curriculum was agreed by an interministerial SBCC committee, convened by DSW. The committee first met in April with representatives from DSW, the Health Literacy Promotion Unit (HLPU) and the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) from the Ministry of Health and Sport, UNICEF, Save the Children, 3MDG and LIFT. HLPU is leading the process of developing education and SBCC materials. They agreed to use material related to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for the nutrition education that is accompanying the cash transfers. In November, the state medical officer agreed on the nutrition awareness curriculum and guidelines for forming mothers' self-help groups. However, few SBCC activities took place because midwives were unavailable due to a national vaccination campaign at the time.

A broader, contextualised SBCC strategy will be developed in 2018. Delivery of SBCC to mothers and strengthening the curriculum are priorities in 2018.

To strengthen government capacities in nutrition education at union, state and township levels, Save the Children, DRC and IRC will provide technical assistance. Save the Children also provides technical expertise for the programme's process monitoring and leads on formative nutrition research that will contribute to the development of the government's SBCC strategy for Chin State.

⁵² Beneficiary numbers are still tentative: the final number of women who have received these payments is not yet available.

⁵³ Newborn children are registered as beneficiaries, but the payment is of course made to their mother. If they are children of mothers who were not registered when pregnant their mothers then become registered for MCCT. If their mothers had previously registered they continue to receive cash transfers.

DSW established a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) committee including staff from UNICEF and LIFT to review all M&E processes related to the programme. The committee reviewed the monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) framework in May.

The monitoring system is designed to identify constraints and issues, inform programme management and ensure that corrective measures are taken in time. It is based on three elements: (1) DSW case managers regularly visit villages and beneficiaries for post-distribution monitoring, (2) use of a process-orientated monitoring system that is managed by Save the Children, DRC and IRC in collaboration with DSW, and (3) a complaint mechanism, in which a focal point in each village reports any complaints to DSW.

The programme monitoring system examines both MCCT and SBCC components and assesses:

- ‡ How the money will be used by the women
- ‡ Year-round access to nutritious food in remote areas
- ‡ The capacity of health services to respond to expected increases in demand
- ‡ The influence of other factors like water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and gender on the adoption of adequate nutrition behaviours
- ‡ The capacity of the General Administration Department (GAD) to deliver money transparently
- ‡ The capacity of health workers to organise mother groups and village social protection committees

By the end of 2017, Save the Children had developed all the necessary monitoring tools and questionnaires, trained a monitoring team in each township and submitted these tools to the M&E committee for review. Approval had not been granted by the end of the year. The complaint mechanism was also not yet operational. Most villages have established a village social protection committee and chosen a complaint focal person, but these people are yet to be trained.

Partners are still considering how DSW's and Save the Children's monitoring mechanisms can best reinforce each other and strengthen the long-term monitoring capacities of DSW. The DSW team is committed to starting to monitor the programme and visiting villages to address issues from early 2018.

LIFT, together with DSW, conducts regular visits to stakeholders and communities to discuss progress and to help understand challenges. LIFT met with DSW, GAD and communities in December 2017 and was assured that all partners are committed to ensuring the success of the programme.

The programme's policy work is presented in Chapter 6 of this report.

Other Chin nutrition projects

The Chin programme with the government is underway, but other LIFT partners have

also made progress in their understanding of nutrition issues in the Chin context and are developing approaches to improve nutrition during the vital first 1,000 days of a child's life.

The Karuna Mother Group

The Productive Agriculture through Community Management (PACE) project, implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Karuna Mission Social Solidarity-Hakha, has adapted the care group model⁵⁴ to deliver an integrated package of nutrition actions, with the aim of improving the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under two. Each group of mothers at the village level elects a lead, who joins a Karuna group that trains selected mothers on nutrition and hygiene behaviour change. The messaging focuses on essential nutrition and hygiene actions (ENAs and EHAs). Parents are taught the practice of exclusive breastfeeding, how to ensure adequate maternal nutrition, and adequate complementary foods for children, using foods available locally. This helps to ensure a diet that will prevent malnutrition. The mothers are also trained in teaching and counselling methods so that they can pass on what they have learned to women in their villages. In 2017, 174 lead mothers were elected in 60 villages and organised into 25 mothers' groups. Attendance at training was around 80 per cent and their training reached around 1,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The government's essential nutrition action approach follows a different cascading system and does not include counselling training. The care group model, based on direct peer-to-peer exchanges, is recognised as being more effective for behaviour change than messaging delivered primarily by health staff in certain contexts. Both approaches are new and untested in Chin State. LIFT and partners will assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the two approaches as the projects continue.

Understanding nutrition behaviours and identifying barriers to behaviour change in Chin State

The PACE project's baseline shows that for most of the ENAs, a greater proportion of women are aware of the message, than feel confident in adopting new practices. CRS conducted a barrier analysis⁵⁵ to help understand what was preventing change, and so develop strategies to increase adoption of ENA practices. PACE's top priority for ENA is promoting the consumption of two extra meals per day among pregnant and breastfeeding women. Only 22 per cent of women eat extra meals in addition to their regular daily meals, and only 17 per cent of all surveyed women felt this was possible. A secondary priority is promoting complementary feeding for babies from six months of age and including a range of different coloured fruits and vegetables in each child's meal. Only 7 per cent of women are confident they can do this. Year-round access

⁵⁴ The Care Groups model is World Relief's innovation for community based health and nutrition interventions to ensure high program coverage and to enhance community participation for sustainable program impact using a network of community volunteers. See further information at caregroupinfo.org

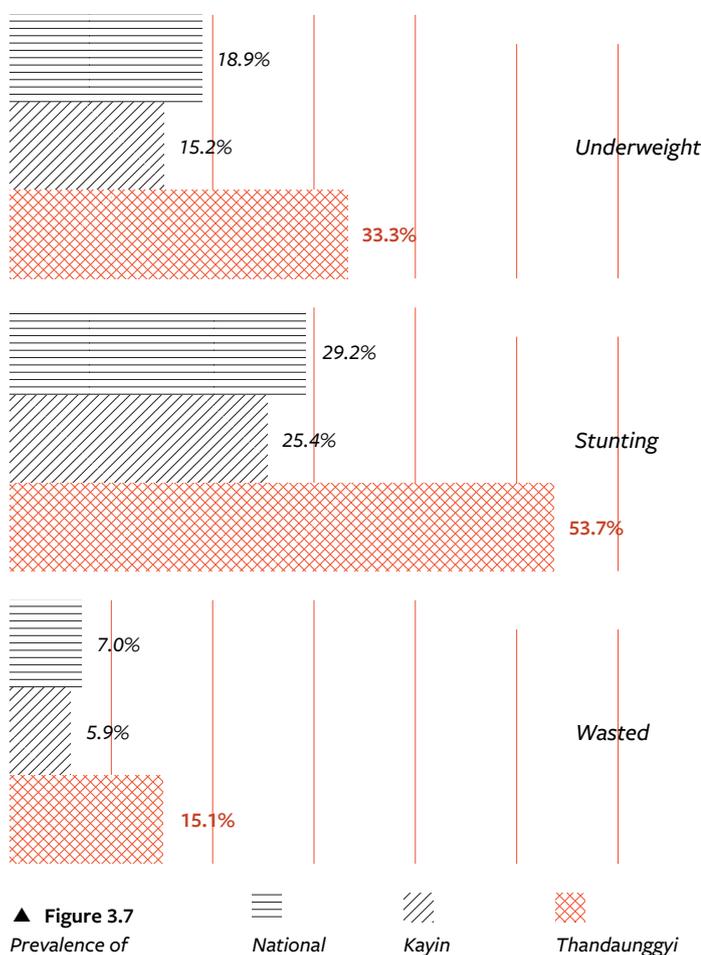
⁵⁵ www.lift-fund.org/barriers-and-enablers-agriculture-and-nutrition-behaviours-chin-state-myanmar

to nutritious, locally-produced food is one barrier. It has been identified that improving mothers' knowledge about malnutrition and the health and development consequences for their children is needed and that involving men in supporting mothers to make dietary changes helps.

CRS presented the barrier analysis methodology to other LIFT partners during the first nutrition community of practice organised by LIFT in April. The results will inform the formative research planned by Save the Children in Chin State.

Nutrition and gender in Chin State

The Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) carried out a knowledge, attitudes and practices study on gender and nutrition in four villages of Hakha Township in January. The study provides interesting insights on taboos surrounding food for pregnant women, the differences in hygiene practices between men and women and the gendered division of labour within the households. Men underestimate the amount of work women do and their contributions in agriculture: while women are heavily involved in farming, they also assume the majority of household tasks. Some of the barriers the women identified as preventing them from practicing exclusive breastfeeding include the difficulty of carrying their babies with them while farming, lack of milk, new pregnancy and illness.



▲ **Figure 3.7**
Prevalence of undernutrition

The study highlighted how cultural norms prevent women from participating in key decision making processes within their household and communities, as well as the dominance of patrilineal inheritance rules that limit women's land ownership. A limitation is that the study's methodology did not assess how actual practices differ from local norms, although the study did find that men were more involved in household tasks if women had an income-generating activity outside of farming, such as traditional weaving.

Critical malnutrition rates in Thandaunggyi in Kayin State

During the inception phase in late 2016 of the Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) project in Thandaunggyi Township, Kayin State, World Concern Myanmar (WCM) carried out a nutrition causal analysis study. Random sampling techniques were used to select 33 villages and 381 households to be interviewed. The weight and height of 594 children under the age of five were measured.

The prevalence of malnutrition in Thandaunggyi Township is high with around 53 per cent of children being 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 and are just as high for boys as for girls.

Pockets of high malnutrition are not uncommon within areas with relatively low levels of malnutrition. The results are alarming, as they are comparable with the malnutrition rates of communities living in emergency situations and demonstrate the necessity for LIFT nutrition interventions in the area.

To respond to these nutrition challenges, WCM, along with local partners, began implementing nutrition and WASH activities in 40 villages. WCM provides nutrition education through community sessions organised by their field staff, and mother-to-mother support group sessions facilitated by women focal points.

Strengthening agriculture value chains in Uplands areas

One of the objectives of the Uplands programme is to increase partners' knowledge and capacities related to agricultural value chains. The Choklei Organisation for Rural and Agricultural Development (CORAD), Metta and CDN teams received support to conduct value chain analyses and design value chain interventions. The methodologies and the initial findings were discussed among partners and LIFT during community of practice meetings in April and August.

Cardamom value chain in Thandaunggyi

SNV, under contract with CDN, conducted a value chain analysis for cardamom. The team assessed production and trading in Kayin State as well as the downstream markets: from the

product source to the regional trading hub in Taungoo, up to trade points on the Myanmar-China border. This work led to the formation of a multi-stakeholder platform in Taungoo to develop potential value chain interventions. Seven members of the platform attended the China Myanmar Goods Expo Exhibition in Shwe Li in December, where they met with traders and cardamom processors to discuss their views on Myanmar's cardamom industry and explore possible collaborations.

The value chain is complex and composed of: farmer producers; several layers of traders (village, township, and regional) who also provide finance to farmers; transporters; exporters and importers from China; and processors/distributors in China.

The assessment of the cardamom value chain has confirmed that it is an important crop with a steady market. Constraints include fragmented production and marketing, low quality of production due to improper drying and post-harvest handling, lack of farmer interest in adopting quality control, unwillingness of traders to pay premium prices for better quality, lack of access to market information, high rates of taxation, constraining policies, and lack of organisation of producers and traders. The major issue remains farmers' high levels of indebtedness due to their dependency on traders pre-financing of crops and the high cost of these debts.

Chinese traders say that Myanmar's cardamom is of a very low quality, requiring additional processing and sorting. The quality is not high enough for it to be used in traditional medicines, a high-value market segment. Vietnam is increasing its production and cardamom from Laos is of a better quality than that of Myanmar. This competition is a threat to Myanmar's market.

Improvement in cardamom quality is therefore fundamental to the value chain sustainability and increased profits. The project has installed two multi-crop dryers as a pilot, to assess the impact of drying on cardamom product quality and whether the dryers can also be used for turmeric as a secondary crop. Traders participating in the multi-stakeholder platform have indicated they are willing to invest in this technology themselves if it proves effective and affordable.

Developing a market for high quality honey produced in Myanmar

The TAG beekeeping project in Shan State that trains beekeepers and develops value chains for honey was evaluated in February and a two-year costed extension was approved at the end of March. The evaluation recommended specific actions to restructure the Apiculture Resource Business Center (ARBC) to ensure local ownership before the end of LIFT's funding.

In 2017, the project reformed its management and governance systems to achieve new core objectives of creating a financially sustainable, producer-owned, self-managed institution that

provides Myanmar beekeepers with access to a reliable high value, fairtrade market. ARBC teams were brought under a single structure renamed the Plan Bee Social Enterprise (PBSE) with three departments: manufacturing, commercial services, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

PBSE has improved quality control and monitoring systems at field sites, improved health and safety standards at the manufacturing site and received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. It has also developed a honey purchasing, storage and inventory management system, improved the performance of the bottling system, and signed an agreement with a large distributor in Myanmar. PBSE also gained an export license.

In 2017, PBSE increased its sales and financial performance. Two shipments of honey, 5.8 tons in total, were exported to China. PBSE sold 22 tons of honey in 2017, compared with 3.6 tons in 2016, generating an income of MMK 100 million (USD 73,800). This trade brings PBSE closer to financial viability without LIFT funding, with a net loss in 2017 of around MMK 7.3 million (USD 5,400).

While the business is growing, much of the 2017 sales were of honey produced and purchased in 2016. The enterprise's revolving fund that is used to buy honey from producers was insufficient for PBSE to purchase more than nine of the 40 tons produced in 2017 at a fair trade price. Beekeepers sold the remaining volumes in the local market. Not being able to sell at a premium price to PBSE limits the income prospects of new beekeepers, whose initial investment in hives is heavy even with project support.

There are now 86 beekeepers, graduates or trainees currently working with the project and 13 private beekeepers involved in the migration and mentoring programmes.

The training programme unfortunately still has a high drop-out rate due to the difficulty of maintaining hives during the lean season without a regular income. The team improved enrolment procedures and selection, reviewed the timing of the training and increased the support for hives and materials to ensure a quicker route to income for the new beekeepers.

While the PBSE has a stronger business operation than previously, a clear institutional and governance model has not yet been defined. This will be a focus of the project in 2018.

Expansion in the south-east and conflict sensitivity assessment

LIFT signed an agreement with The Border Consortium (TBC) in May for the implementation of the Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands project (STAND UP) in 10 townships of Kayin and Mon States and Tanintharyi Region, in partnership with eight local organisations.

In May, LIFT's conflict sensitivity advisor carried out a conflict sensitivity assessment in Kayin State. The team held discussions with all partners: UNHCR, international NGOs,

	Number of Townships	Loans disbursed (USD)	Total clients	Female clients
ASA	9	6,971,013	18,890	18,890
Early Dawn	1	8,805,535	23,260	23,260
Gret Microfinance (Chin)	5	1,024,691	10,126	6,484
LOLC	7	4,711,858	13,061	12,277
Pact Global Microfinance Fund (*)	8	30,528,679	82,122	80,856
Proximity Finance	4	2,617,011	8,146	4,888
SATHAPANA LIMITED	6	351,985	5,303	4,744
Vision Fund Myanmar	8	17,666,095	40,478	31,485
Total		72,676,866	201,386	182,884

▲ **Table 3.9**
Financial inclusion in Uplands

key government departments, the Karen National Union (KNU)'s health, agriculture departments and liaison officers. The team met with Karen National Union leaders to present LIFT and its programmes in the south-east. The KNU delegation expressed an eagerness to work with LIFT. Future challenges relate to the expected increase of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) returning to their villages of origin or to resettlement areas and the lack of livelihood support in place there.

Another conflict sensitivity assessment was carried out in northern Shan State to assess the impact of conflict on the operations of the Upland Township Fund and Metta's agricultural value chain project, both funded by LIFT. The effects of the conflict on the project are so far limited, but the general lack of security in the area constrains project implementation and farmer engagement. The conflict has prevented farmers from accessing their fields, project staff visiting some villages and government staff being able to provide services, such as community forestry registration.

Vocational training and the labour market in Thanintharyi

A Community Vocational Training Centre⁵⁶ (CVTC) was built in Thayet Chaung Township in 2017 with LIFT's support. Two-month courses in masonry, carpentry, mechanics, weaving, sewing and baking will begin in 2018. A labour market survey conducted by Covenant

Consult, a partner of the Karen Development Network (KDN), found that TVET opportunities in the region were limited, especially for Karen IDPs, but demand for vocational training was high and local businesses were ready to employ skilled workers.

The CVTC has been established as a community-based organisation. The board of directors includes religious and community leaders, representatives from the project's partners, the private sector and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Thailand.

Financial inclusion

LIFT also supports microfinance institutions working in Upland areas. By December 2017, around 200,000 clients had received micro-finance loans worth around USD 72 million

Building the capacity of local organisations

SWISSAID, in collaboration with partners GRET and Metta, set up the Uplands Township Funds (UTF) in 15 townships in Chin, Kachin, northern and southern Shan, and Kayah States in mid-2016. The UTF provides funding opportunities to local civil society organisations to support implementation of livelihood activities and strengthen their governance and management capacities. In 2017, UTF received and screened 118 proposals and approved and contracted 54 grants worth USD 1.4 million to 51 civil society groups. UTF grants are being used to: improve incomes, skills and agriculture production; build community awareness of land and forestry laws; provide leadership training for young women; protect fisheries; raise awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights and integrate people returning from Thailand into local livelihood systems.

Safe and rewarding migration in the Uplands

The LIFT migration project, Increasing the Development Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership, is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It works in 656 villages in 30 townships in seven states and regions, including Chin, Shan, Mon, Kayin, and Tanintharyi. In 2017, the project worked with 33 local CSO partners, building their capacity to proactively address the large migration trends in their regions. IOM prepared a pre-migration curriculum and trainer's guides. In Chin State, LIFT's partner Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) used the curriculum and arranged theatre shows in 13 villages of Hakha township, reaching more than 2,000 people. Pact Global Micro-Finance (PGMF) trained the field staff of local partnering CSOs on the importance of remittance saving.

Progress was made in increasing the provision of vocational skills training in Upland areas to prepare people planning to migrate for work opportunities. In Shan State, LIFT's

⁵⁶ Initially the proposed name of the centre was the Karen Vocational Training Center, but the government refused to register it under this name.

partner Parami Development Network provide motorcycle and engine repairing courses, sewing, beautician, accounting, and English language and professional development skills courses to project beneficiaries.

LIFT's partners in the south-east held discussions with government TVET providers and chambers of commerce to identify suitable partners to deliver the skills development training. In Chin State, CHRO recruited students from five townships to participate in mobile phone repair, carpentry and masonry courses delivered by the Hakha Government Technical Institute.

Looking ahead

The programme grew substantially in 2017, increasing its understanding of local contexts, developing processes and reaching more communities. In early 2018, mid-term reviews will evaluate the projects' implementation progress and identify areas for improvement.

The key priority in Chin State is to ensure a strong monitoring system is in place for the government's cash transfers and nutrition programme. Delivery of nutrition education will be rolled out based on the IYCF material and Save the Children will support the government to develop an appropriate SBCC strategy based on formative research. This will help to understand what the major constraints are to the adoption of recommended behaviours. CRS will complement these efforts by conducting the first LINK nutrition causal analysis in Myanmar.⁵⁷

In the south-east, LIFT partners' relationships with KNU and other stakeholders have been strengthened, but the lack of progress in the peace process reduces the possibility of more significant collaboration. In 2018, LIFT will review the results of its first experience of working in conflict-affected areas and develop a strategy for further engagement, particularly in terms of providing services to IDPs.

LIFT also looks forward to intensifying learning exchanges between partners. The Uplands programme team will organise additional community of practice meetings on nutrition, value chain and natural resource management.

57 See linknca.org

On Rakhine

Improving water and hygiene

Daw Aye Nyo, 79, savours the taste of fresh clean potable water from her newly installed village bio-sand filter. The easily maintained filter will be essential for villagers when they face their next cyclone, an experience they know well. Daw Aye Nyo has weathered five severe cyclones including one in 1979, when 500 people on a nearby island died of dehydration, because their village ponds were filled with salty water.

Parents of young children are delighted to see a bio-sand filter in their village. They all remember the fear of diarrhoea when they were young. Every summer, five children died from diarrhoea in Kye Gaung Taung, a village of 240 households and 1,400 people. Today, there are no deaths in the summer. They also say their behaviour has changed and this has stopped the scourge of diarrhoea. They boil their water, use latrines and wash their hands after toileting, before preparing food, and when feeding their children.

Story by Jennifer Macintyre,
Head of Communication for
the LIFT Tat Lan Programme
in Rakhine









4.0

Thematic Programmes

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

4.1

Financial inclusion and private sector partnerships

LIFT is more than a funder. LIFT is a catalytic actor, collaborating and partnering actively with the private sector in the design and co-financing of programmes, risk-sharing and pushing innovative ideas. Several decades ago, the majority of financial investment in developing economies came from development assistance. Today, private sector investment significantly outweighs development assistance. Private sector investment of equity and finance makes up about two-thirds of development assistance. Private philanthropic contributions and remittances makes up 19 per cent. Official Development Assistance is 15 per cent of the total.⁵⁸

Collaboration with the private sector is essential to remaining relevant and achieving sustainable development results. As a result, LIFT has developed programmes over the past two years in conjunction with the private sector that, through the sharing of risk, sustainably expand the credit and finance options available to people in rural areas.

LIFT's financial inclusion and private sector partnerships programme has grown from a budgeted USD 75 million to USD 248 million in the past two and a half years, when the USD 173 million private sector co-financing leveraged by LIFT's investment is taken into account. The result is a more robust, inclusive rural financial market that is helping people take advantage of economic opportunities, build assets, generate employment, manage risks and reduce poor people's vulnerabilities to external shocks.

Microfinance expansion

In 2017, LIFT formed partnerships with eight new financial inclusion partners. Two are township savings and credit cooperatives in Myingyan and Natogyi in the Dry Zone, implemented by the Canadian Cooperatives Association (CCA). Six are new microfinance institutions (MFIs), which accessed debt financing from international investment companies supported by LIFT's MFI Capital Market Project implemented through TCX's foreign currency hedging facility. As of

December 2017, LIFT had 65 financial inclusion partners: 14 international MFIs, 10 local MFIs, one commercial bank, two township savings and credit cooperatives, and 38 primary credit cooperatives. See Annex 4 for details of financial inclusion partners. The majority of MFIs are licensed as for-profit companies under Myanmar's Company Law. Key 2017 microfinance results include:

- | 2.1 million clients from 16,211 villages and wards (growth of almost 23 per cent from 2016)
- | USD 459 million total assets (growth of 90 per cent since 2016)
- | USD 648 million in loans disbursed (growth of 50 per cent since 2016)
- | USD 399 million in loans outstanding
- | USD 86 million in savings mobilised

The ratio of loans outstanding to total assets is a healthy 0.86, indicating that MFI capital is being used efficiently. Almost 60 per cent of loans were used for livestock and small business and 30 per cent for agriculture.

MFIs are becoming more efficient. Operational costs as a percentage of average total assets continues to drop, except for MFIs undergoing rapid expansion, and could provide an opportunity to lower lending interest rates. The Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF)'s Myanmar Access to Rural Credit project, which is being implemented with national MFIs, is an example of a well-implemented project with financially sustainable MFIs, meeting LIFT's target of operating costs at 10 per cent of average assets.

LIFT's financial inclusion programme continues to support MFIs to develop and introduce more demand-driven financial services that serve diversified market segments. By the end of 2017, 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. In 2017, the financial inclusion 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.

Building an Inclusive Rural Financial Market

The diversity of rural households is one of the drivers for LIFT's strategy of targeting people as those who can 'step up', those who will and can 'step out' and those who need to 'hang in' as the rural economy transitions in Myanmar's economic transformation.

There is a broad range of economic classes of households and small businesses in rural Myanmar—communities with farm and non-farm households, small agribusiness operators, input supply dealers, repair and service shops, retailers, and so on. The

⁵⁸ Investments to End Poverty, Development Initiatives, 2015, <http://devinit.org/post/private-development-assistance-key-facts-and-global-estimates/>.

changing financial situation of rural households and small businesses requires a financial inclusion strategy that aligns the supply of appropriate financial services with demand. For example, the percentage of rural households in which some of their members are engaged in non-farm businesses is substantial and growing. There are also differences between smallholder farmers, with many running their businesses as best suits their circumstances: diverse and flexible financial services are required. A robust, inclusive rural financial market can help people take advantage of economic opportunities, build assets, manage risks, and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks, for example by providing income and food security smoothing.

LIFT is committed to promoting and developing a rural financial market that is inclusive of all economic strata. This was a foundational principle of the financial inclusion programme's call for proposals in 2015. A key objective was to increase the supply of rural financial services (loans, savings, financial education, business services) that would be tailored to the demand and needs of rural households - including the poor, women, landless, internally displaced, farmers and small businesses. In 2017, LIFT supported MFIs to expand the range of financial services and the communities they reached.

VisionFund Myanmar was awarded a grant in 2017 to assist in its institutional development in order to build their capacity to expand and upgrade operations in Myanmar's Upland areas—Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States—and to be more responsive to providing demand-driven financial services. Special attention was given to the integration of considerations vis-à-vis gender, internally-displaced persons, small business loans, term financing, refinancing (debt consolidation), and savings.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

VisionFund Myanmar rolled out financial services in five IDP camps in Myitkina District of Kachin State, where 158 loans were provided with an average loan size of USD 159. Women received 64 per cent of the loans. More than 80 per cent of the loans were invested in small business (livestock), and 14 per cent were for clients' children education. Six clients borrowed for health purposes. Poverty Probability Index (PPI) data will be analysed in 2018 to assess the impact of loans.

People with disabilities

PGMF has disaggregated client information by vulnerable/disabled since 2013, including in LIFT's Myanmar Access to Rural Credit (MARC) project, implemented by PGMF to strengthen national MFIs' financial structures and operations. In 2017, it is estimated that around 7,400 people with disabilities accessed loans from PGMF and MARC, with an average loan size of USD 250.

In early 2018, Vision Fund Myanmar analysed data on clients and found that 11 per cent of their clients are people with disabilities. When extrapolated to the total number of clients, this means there are more than 19,000 clients with disabilities receiving loans of around USD 250 from VisionFund Myanmar.

Looking ahead, significantly more can be done to provide people who are vulnerable or disabled with access to financial services. Few MFIs target this demographic, which represents 4.6 per cent of the population.

Expansion of financial services in Rakhine

PGMF's Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion Project (RAFIN) is now operational in eight townships in southern Rakhine State. Five of the eight branches are already financially sustainable. In 2017, more than 59,000 clients were reached in 1,917 villages. Ninety-eight per cent of the clients are women. USD 10.4 million in loans were disbursed and 92 per cent were used for small businesses and livestock. Less than one per cent of the portfolio is classified as being at risk. These results are well above targets.

Social performance of microfinance

One way LIFT examines social performance of microfinance is through client poverty profiles. LIFT's MARC project works with nine local microfinance institutions (MFIs) that use the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI), also 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 their poverty outreach objectives. The PPI also gives MFIs quantitative evidence of the poverty profiles of their clients.

According to the PPI results of MARC MFIs from 2015 to 2016, around 20 per cent of the clients under the national poverty line (USD 1.20/day) and under USD 1.25/day moved out of the under USD 1.25/day classification. Under a broader category of USD 2.50/day, four per cent graduated to the next level after two years. This suggests that access to financial services may have played a role in facilitating the transition of the most vulnerable clients to a more resilient position.

In 2018, LIFT will collect PPI data from more microfinance partners to further examine their social performance.

Microfinance and gender impact

LIFT commissioned a study in mid-2017 to investigate the influence of selected LIFT microfinance partners on women's empowerment. The study, using qualitative techniques, spoke to almost 280 women in 11 townships in the Dry Zone and Delta. Three partners were included: PGMF, Proximity Design, and GRET. The study investigated women's self-esteem, self-worth, decision-making ability, participation in the wider community, access to and/or control

	Under National Poverty Line			Under \$1.25 per day			Under \$2.50 per day		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
BDA	15.84	15.07	11.95	17.60	16.55	12.70	86.60	86.60	83.07
AYO	13.74	15.1	11.12	15.02	16.61	11.72	84.58	85.55	81.76
RMO	22.29	16.45	13.86	25.84	18.57	15.42	90.49	84.85	81.34
ECLOF	26.57	26.4	19.06	31.06	30.85	21.64	94.56	94.53	89.63
MHDO	15.97	16.09	13.44	18.02	18.17	14.79	84.12	84.20	81.22
SVS	13.44	12.6	11.52	14.63	13.70	12.42	82.79	81.43	79.54
Wanlark	36.87	35.47	31.48	44.00	42.37	37.50	96.19	96.03	97.62
YMCA	21.38	21.19	20.35	24.67	24.50	23.42	88.14	88.77	86.56
The SUN	14.7	13.25	12.88	16.22	14.73	13.98	84.65	80.33	82.64
Average in %	20.09	19.07	16.19	23.01	21.78	18.18	88.01	86.92	84.82
Annual change in %		5%	19%		5%	21%		1%	4%

▲ **Table 4.1**
MARC's local MFIs
PPI results

of resources, workload, and improvements in well-being.

The findings concerning the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment were nuanced. Microfinance clearly had an impact on women's self-confidence and self-worth. Their status in the eyes of other household members increased, due to income gains from their microfinance investments. The women became more mobile, pushed by the needs of the business to source inputs, sell products and follow up on accounts receivable, and women gained confidence in venturing beyond their usual environments. Women's access to and control of assets and resources also improved. However, increased ownership of assets was not observed.

The study found that women's participation in community activities and decision-making had changed little. Cultural norms and traditional male roles in community structures present barriers to women having real power to make decisions. They are perceived to lack business knowledge. The study suggests there is potential for microfinance to impact on women gaining more decision-making power but only after accessing finance over longer periods of time.

Women report that their workloads have increased due to the income-generating opportunities microfinance creates. But most feel positive about this due to the increase in income this brings to their families.

Microfinance capital market development⁵⁹

The Myanmar Kyat (MMK) has been volatile over the past three years, and is currently 25 per cent lower in value against the USD than it was two years ago. This has been an obstacle for attracting foreign investment to Myanmar's MFIs.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance is the regulator for microfinance and has regulated an interest cap on MFI loans of 30 per cent. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is the regulator for commercial loans, and approves offshore debt financing to microfinance institutions. The CBM has set interest rate caps on MMK loans (13 per cent) and USD loans (8 per cent).

The combination of the volatile currency and the FRD and CBM lending interest rate caps on MFIs and commercial lending created a 'perfect storm' that had stopped the development of Myanmar's MFI capital market.

In 2017, to address this, LIFT partnered with The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX)⁶⁰, a risk hedging facility that establishes a fixed exchange rate with investors, removing their risk of losses caused by fluctuations in MMK. LIFT became the market maker in the development of Myanmar's MFI capital market. LIFT invested USD 10 million in the TCX facility to pay for hedging costs and fees. USD 86 million of debt financing was quickly subscribed in 37 transactions between 10 international investors and 11 microfinance institutions in Myanmar through the partnership with TCX. By the end of 2017, USD 80 million in private sector co-financing had been secured and 40 loans were issued by 11 lenders to 12 MFIs. These MFIs served an additional 340,000 clients, with an average loan size of USD 237. Eighty-four per cent of these clients are women, and 64 per cent of the clients live in rural areas. The 12 MFIs increased their workforce by 21 per cent with more than 1,000 new jobs created.

The average USD return required by the 20 lenders was USD Libor⁶¹ 6 million, plus six per cent. Without the subsidy, TCX would have swapped the average loan to one with an interest rate of almost 20 per cent in MMK, assuming two years' duration and a maturity of almost 3 years. The gap that LIFT fills is the difference between the average interest rate of 20 per cent, which the market would have dictated, and the Myanmar government's interest rate, which is capped at 13 per cent.

LIFT's Capital Market Project has accelerated the natural transformation of the MFI sector: NGOs have become MFIs, which have in turn become deposit-taking institutions, and subsequently transformed into banks.

Looking ahead

There is demand for further investment and there is a lot of potential for investors to fund MFIs in Myanmar. A survey conducted by TCX in December 2017 found that 11

⁵⁹ A capital market is where financial instruments such as debt (financial borrowings) or equity (ownership interests) are bought and sold.

⁶⁰ <https://www.tcxfund.com/>

⁶¹ Libor is a benchmark rate used by the world's banks to calculate interest rates charged on loans. It stands for intercontinental Exchange London Interbank Offered Rate.

LIFT-supported MFIs were planning to raise USD 170 million in new funding in 2018 to meet their target growth rate of 70 per cent.

LIFT reviewed registered MFIs and determined that the cumulative equity base for the microfinance sector grew from USD 83 million in 2016 to USD 159 million in 2017. This increased equity base allows MFIs to borrow more proportionally. The Myanmar Central Bank’s regulations allow MFIs to leverage debt worth more than five times their equity. Even with the USD 10 million that LIFT invested in covering the swap costs for foreign exchange risk—which produced USD 80 million of debt financing for the sector—the unserved demand for debt financing at the end of 2017 is estimated to be USD 560 million.

The project was to be transitional, spanning two years, based on assumptions that MFIs would progressively find more alternatives to build their capital structure without LIFT’s catalytic investment, and most importantly, that the Myanmar interest rate structure would become market-driven. The government’s recent announcement that the financial sector’s interest rate structure would remain unchanged through 2019 makes a second round of investments by LIFT imperative. The proposed budget of USD 15 million would lead to an estimated USD 120 million in private sector co-financing.

The long-term prognosis remains that MFIs will progressively find more alternatives to build their capital structure and could even rely on other local and international banks to hedge their foreign exchange risk. This is already happening under the Yoma Bank Agribusiness Finance Programme where Yoma Bank is providing MMK loans to MFIs.

Agribusiness Finance Programme (AFP)
AFP’s 2017 rural finance expansion

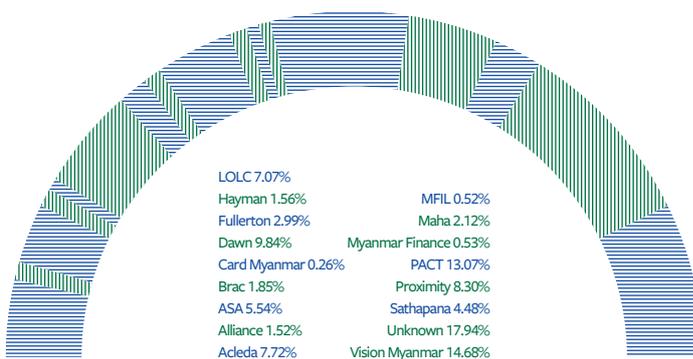
In 2016, LIFT launched the Agribusiness Finance Programme (AFP), which is implemented by Yoma Bank in partnership with agriculture equipment dealers. In 2017, the AFP expanded to deliver more rural finance services. A suite of un(der)secured loan products was launched to increase access to finance for actors in agriculture value chains. Digital, mass-market financial products were also developed to mobilise savings from rural, smallholder farmers.

Key results of the AFP by the end of 2017 are:

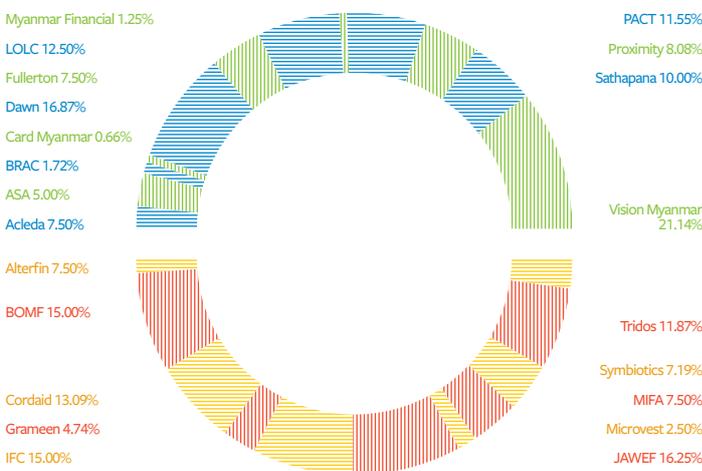
- | LIFT’s USD 9 million investment leveraged USD 87 million in financing for agricultural machinery by Yoma Bank.
- | New agriculture equipment valued at USD 106 million was financed through hire purchase, benefitting more than 5,000 small and medium-sized businesses.
- | Almost 3,000 four-wheel tractors, 702 combine harvesters, 255 two-wheel tractors, 13 harvesters, and 1,500 transport vehicles and farm implements were financed.
- | Around 100,000 farmers rented machinery from rental service businesses for tillage

Description	Requested allocations	Allocations/Loans hedged
Volume USD	200,724,815	80,021,095
Number of Lenders	20	11
Number of Loans	92	40
Number of MFIs	17	12
Margin over LIBOR 6m Weighted average	6%	6%
Interest rate in MMK without subsidy Weighted average	19.63%	18.63%
Loan Duration Years weighted average	2	2
Loan Maturity Years	2.9	-

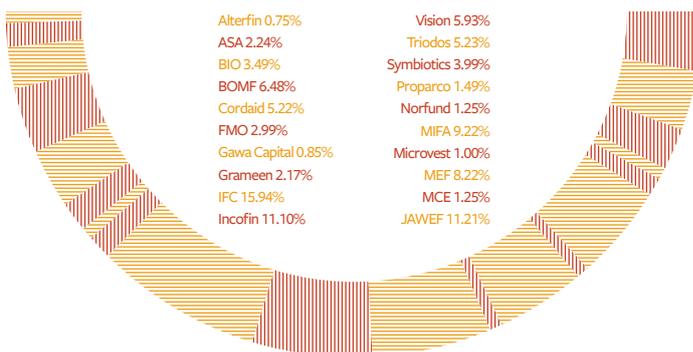
▼ MFIs that requested debt financing through TCX



▼ MFIs that received debt financing through TCX

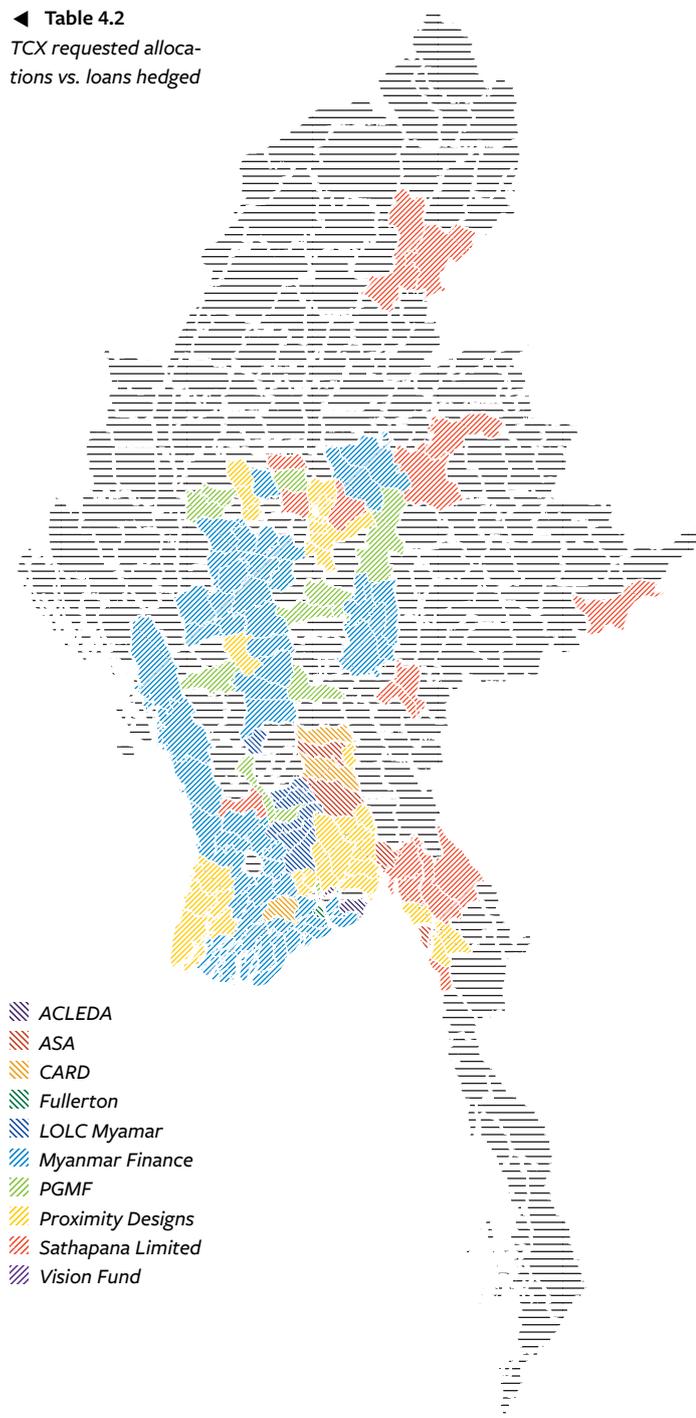


▲ Lenders who provided funding through TCX



▲ Lenders who sought to provide funding through TCX

◀ **Table 4.2**
TCX requested allocations vs. loans hedged



▲ **Figure 4.2**
Geographical distribution of MFIs accessing the MFI Capital Market Project. Source: LIFT

and harvesting of around 760,000 acres, saving them USD 11.9 million dollars in production costs and increasing gross margins per acre by USD 22.

- | Women are financially in charge of 20 per cent of agribusinesses that accessed hire purchase for agriculture machinery. 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.
- | USD 710,000 was disbursed to around 1,100 farmers through the discounted receivables financial product introduced for agriculture input suppliers in mid-2017.
- | USD 68,000 was disbursed, benefitting around 200 farmers, through a payables finance product introduced in late 2017 that allows input dealers to buy goods on credit from their suppliers.
- | USD 3.2 million was disbursed to 37 maize traders, reaching an estimated 6,800 farmers, through a seasonal overdraft product introduced in 2017. This enables maize traders to buy and sell more goods, increasing the maize market’s competitiveness and offering farmers better market access.
- | Yoma Bank provided USD 5.4 million to MFIs, benefitting an estimated 28,000 rural households.
- | Digital financial services for individual development accounts became operational in the fourth quarter of 2017.

AFP’s machinery hire purchase

Under the AFP, rural business owners are referred by equipment dealers, and can then access hire purchase financing loans from Yoma Bank for agricultural machinery on attractive terms for entrepreneurs, which were not previously commercially viable for the bank. Yoma Bank, and other banks in Myanmar, offered a hire purchase product before LIFT’s AFP began. The minimum down payment provided by clients was 30 per cent, repayments were mostly monthly and the loan period typically one year. These product terms and conditions were unattractive to small and medium scale enterprises and businesses that wanted to buy machinery and provide agricultural services to farmers. Under the AFP, Yoma Bank reduced the down payment to a minimum of 10 per cent, allowed longer loan periods up to three years, and provided for a bi-annual repayment cycle in order to accommodate small enterprises’ seasonal cash flows.

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 results in 2017 are impressive. USD 87 million in financing resulted in agricultural equipment valued at USD 106 million being

purchased by rural entrepreneurs. The equipment financed includes almost 3,000 tractors, more than 700 combine harvesters, and 1,500 transportation vehicles and farm implements.

At the end of 2017, 513 of the 4,871 accounts were overdue. The underlying balance represents 8.3 per cent of the total portfolio. The majority of these overdue accounts were overdue by less than 90 days.

The number of equipment dealers eligible for financing under AFP terms increased from 11 in 2016 to 17 in 2017.

Michigan State University's Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey indicates that farm mechanisation by smallholders is driven largely by equipment rental services. The AFP estimates that more than 100,000 farming families have rented machinery for tillage and harvesting from AFP clients since the project began, covering around 760,000 acres.

An agricultural mechanisation cluster survey in 2016, undertaken by Michigan State University (MSU) with LIFT's support, reveals rapid growth and increased geographical spread of private agricultural machinery dealerships in Myanmar post-2011. Sales volumes grew 500 per cent. Sales growth is strongest for large machines like combine harvesters and four-wheel tractors. The research shows that hire purchase financing has fuelled this growth. According to the study, demand for mechanisation is concentrated in power-intensive activities, particularly in land preparation and harvesting. Demand is also driven by rural labour shortages caused by labour migration. Widespread labour migration after 2009 drove mechanisation in Delta, and the study indicates that this led to increased machinery purchasing after 2011.

LIFT's programme monitoring also indicates that farmers are increasingly adopting use of large machinery to overcome problems of labour shortages, high production costs, poor tillage quality and missing the optimal time to harvest in peak season due to unpredictable weather conditions. Replacing old tractors with new ones is resulting in better capacity, quality, frequency and time management for rental services providers and producers. As the rental market becomes more competitive farmers can access better services with fair prices.

MSU's Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey results show that using a combine harvester reduces the number of worker days per acre fivefold, reducing labour cost per acre in rice paddy cultivation from MMK 71,191 (USD 53) to MMK 29,023 (USD 22). Combine harvesters take just 0.2 worker days to finish an acre of paddy land while labour takes five days, excluding threshing and cleaning. The same time and cost savings can be observed when farmers use tractors rather than draught animals for field preparation.

Un(der)secured agribusiness financing

One of the objectives of the AFP is to increase the supply of un(der)secured loans to agribusiness in Myanmar. The current practice

Days overdue	No. of accounts	Total outstanding balance
0 days	4,358	17,704,674,54
1 to 30 days	175	2,126,030,237
31 to 60 days	202	2,512,090,070
61 to 90 days	130	1,698,648,866
91 to 180 days	6	72,146,092
Grant total	4,871	72,146,092

▲ Table 4.3

Requested allocations vs. loans hedged

Borrower value chain	Borrower facility limit MMK million	Discounted receivable limit MMK million	Peak drawings MMK million	Average Utilization	Estimated number of farmers reached
Fertiliser, seeds	1,000	999	999	95.58%	550
Organic fertiliser	500	266	266	87.53%	580

▲ Table 4.4

Yoma Bank's discounted receivables product

Supplier value chain	Programme Limit MMK million	No. of approved dealers	Total approved limit MMK million	Total # of loans disbursed	Peak Drawings MMK million	Estimated farmers reached
Fertiliser	2,000	3	-	-	-	-
Animal feed	2,000	-	-	-	-	-
Fertiliser, seeds	2,000	1	150	2	96.4	200
Fertiliser	1,000	-	-	-	-	-
Fertiliser	6,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13,000	4	150	2	96.4	200

▲ Table 4.5

Yoma Bank's payable finance product

Branch Name	Number of loans	Total disbursed (MMK million)	Total outstanding (MMK million)	Estimated number of farmers reached
Aungban	9	1,332	1,232.6	1,800
Kyaukme	8	807	667.3	1,600
Lashio 1	1	300	301.6	200
Lashio 2	1	50	38.0	200
Taunggyi 1	15	1,495	1,490.9	3,000
Taunggyi 2	-	-	-	-
Total	34	3,984	3,730.0	6,800

▲ Table 4.6

Yoma Bank's seasonal overdraft product

62 Manning, P. and Trimmer, T. (2013). *Migration in World History*. 2nd ed. London and New York: Routledge.

63 Sutherland, P. D. (2013). *Migration is Development: How Migration Matters to the Post-2015 Debate*. *Migration and Development*, (2), pp. 151-156.

64 International Organisation for Migration (IOM). "Myanmar: Overview". 2015. Web.

65 The Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population. "The Union Report: Census Report Volume 2." dop.gov.mm. May 2015, p. 123-124. Web.

66 <http://myanmar.unfpa.org/country-profile-0>

67 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>

68 UNDESA (2014). *World Urbanization Prospects*. New York.

69 Adams, RH; Page, J (2005) 'Do international migration and remittances reduce poverty in developing countries?' *World Development* 33(10): 1645-1669

70 Ratha, D. (2013). The impact of remittances on economic growth and poverty reduction. *Policy Brief*, 8, pp. 1-13.

71 The World Bank. (2015). *International Migration at All-Time High*. [Press Release]. Available from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/12/18/international-migrants-and-remittances-continue-to-grow-as-people-search-for-better-opportunities-new-report-finds>.

Scalabrin, P. and Graham Fitzgerald, S. (2016). *Migration and remittances fact 2016*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

72 Remittances dropped a mere 5.5 percent during the global financial crisis in 2009, compared to an approximately 40 percent decrease in FDI (Ahmed and Martinez-Zarzoso, 2016). See also Makina, 2014.

among Myanmar banks is to lend against land and buildings as collateral. This has severely impacted both the supply and demand for financial services from agribusinesses. The AFP addresses both supply and demand constraints by providing technical assistance to Yoma Bank in underwriting risk, and providing a first loss buffer for un(der)secured loans. A brief description of the four new un(der)secured financial products under the AFP is presented below. Three products benefit from 100 per cent protection of the first loss buffer. This is limited only by the size of the buffer, which is around USD 3.5 million. The fourth financial service has a first loss buffer of 10 per cent.

Discounted accounts receivable is a type of overdraft product that is aimed at the agricultural input market, where large suppliers operate through a network of dealers who distribute to farmers. Seeds, fertilisers and pesticides are sold on short-term credit to these distributors, who then offer short-term credit to farmers. Yoma Bank provides working capital to a supplier based on the amount they sell to the dealers on credit. For example, by discounting these receivables by 75 per cent through financing, the equivalent value Yoma Bank can finance is MMK 150 million (USD 111,000) of the total MMK 200 million (USD 148,000) credit needed, without requesting any collateral. This cash injection at the top of the value chain enables the supplier to sell more on credit to the dealer, who in turn can sell more to the farmer on credit and so the supply of inputs increases.

Payable finance is a product that finances dealers who distribute suppliers' products to the farmers. The payable finance product is structured so that dealers, rather than suppliers, 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 suppliers accept 50 per cent of the risk of a dealer defaulting on the loan. Dealers repay the loans to the bank in one payment at the end of the loan period. Dealers can take out multiple loans with Yoma Bank up to a certain limit, which is based on their average sales values with the supplier over the past two years.

Seasonal overdrafts are 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 repay the full amount by July. The limit is then gradually scaled back from March onwards. Yoma Bank provides finance based on 75 per cent of last year's peak season sales volume, as evidenced through traders' bank statements. The security comprises a cash deposit equal to a maximum 15 per cent of the overdraft. Yoma Bank piloted the product in late 2017 to gauge interest and experiment with product specifications. Since the exposure is fully unsecured, the pilot was capped at MMK 5 billion (USD 3.7 million) for the season until mid-January 2018, to assess repayment rates before possibly scaling up.

When the window closed, the facility had been marginally oversubscribed.

Lending to microfinance institutions by commercial banks became possible after a change in legislation in the second half of 2016. Yoma Bank provides MFIs with MMK loans for up to three years with quarterly interest payments. A minimum of 40 per cent USD cash collateral is required. Loan repayments can be staggered or made in full at the end of the term. In September 2017, a MMK 7.3 billion (USD 5.4 million) loan was disbursed to Proximity Finance. Five more loans are in the application and regulatory approval processes. The risk sharing arrangement with LIFT is a 10 per cent first loss buffer.

Digital savings/individual development accounts (IDA)

The digital savings/IDA activity was approved in late 2017. Progress since then has been made in hiring staff, establishing teams, selecting vendors to provide digital credit and coaching, and experimenting with integrating the digital money platform Wave Money. Services will be launched in 2018.

4.2 Safe and rewarding migration Context

In the past 50 years, the global urban population has risen from one-fifth to more than one half of the total population.⁶² Worldwide, an estimated 750 million people migrate within their country and more than 250 million migrate internationally.⁶³ Myanmar is the largest labour migration source country in the greater Mekong region, with up to 10 per cent of its population migrating internationally.⁶⁴ The 2014 census data indicates that almost 20 per cent of the population is internal migrants.⁶⁵ With one in every five people being a migrant, Myanmar is a country 'on the move'. It is estimated that only about 30 per cent of Myanmar's population is urbanised⁶⁶, compared to 54 per cent of Thailand's, and 58 per cent for the whole of East Asia and the Pacific.⁶⁷ By 2050, 64 per cent of Asia's people will be living in urban areas⁶⁸ and Myanmar's urbanisation is expected to increase rapidly.

Labour migration is an important livelihood strategy for rural households in Myanmar, and migrant workers and their remittances can have a significant impact on reducing the "level, depth, and severity of poverty in developing countries".⁶⁹ Remittances are also associated with improvements in education, healthcare, and gender equality.⁷⁰ International migrants from developing countries sent around USD 441 billion home in 2015. This is equivalent to triple the volume of official development assistance (ODA), and with the exception of China, exceeds foreign direct investment (FDI).⁷¹ Research also shows that remittance flows are more stable than ODA or FDI during economic downturns, natural disasters, political turmoil or conflict, situations that occur frequently in Myanmar.⁷²

Myanmar's State Counsellor, Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi, underlined the importance of managing migration in her speech at the United Nations General Assembly in 2016. The State Counsellor said: “migrants contribute to the economies of their host countries as well as to the global economy...building cooperation and collaboration between the host country and the country of origin in ensuring the rights of migrant workers will be mutually reinforcing for both economies”.

In 2016, LIFT finalised the design of its USD 16 million migration programme. The programme’s emphasis is on improving migration management by making migration safer and more rewarding. It also aims to contribute to LIFT’s overall outcomes of increasing people’s incomes, resilience and improving policies. In 2017, all projects were up and running. LIFT’s migration programme is the largest funding window for migration in Myanmar and aims to support safe and rewarding migration by:

- | Engaging with the Government of Myanmar to improve policies and governance on safe labour migration and anti-trafficking
- | Collaborating with industries for a responsible and profitable approach to rural-to-urban migration
- | Empowering civil society and media to support safe and rewarding migration for their constituencies and audiences
- | Highlighting gender aspects of migration, including addressing abuse and trafficking

- | Establishing a migration knowledge partnership for Myanmar as a joint effort to drive the migration agenda

Highlights in 2017
Engaging with the Government of Myanmar to improve policies and governance on safe labour migration and anti-trafficking

Protecting migrant workers from exploitation and trafficking is a priority for the Government of Myanmar. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that the total illegal profits from forced labour globally amounts to USD 150.2 billion per year, making trafficking in persons one of the most profitable global criminal enterprises.⁷³ Migration and trafficking are two distinct but deeply interrelated phenomena: migration is a general term describing the movement of people from one place to another; trafficking is a subset of migration, but must involve the use of deceit, force, or threat etc., for the purpose of exploitation.⁷⁴ Myanmar’s poor socio-economic development levels, conflict-prone areas and volatile political climate are among the many factors that have made Myanmar a primary source country for the trafficking industry.⁷⁵ Myanmar men are often forced into labour-intensive industries, such as fishing, forestry, construction, agriculture, and manufacturing, while women and girls most commonly fall victim to sex trafficking and domestic servitude.⁷⁶ The majority of

Implementing partners

Implementing partners	Location	Focus
IOM, University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation	Nationwide	Quantitative and qualitative research on capitalising human mobility for poverty alleviation and inclusive development in Myanmar
ILO	Nationwide	Development of internal and international labour migration governance
BBC Media Action	Nationwide	Using mass media to inform people of how migration can be safe and rewarding
IOM, PGMF, Mon Women’s Organization, Parami Development Network, Chin Human Rights Organization.	Chin, Mandalay, Magway, Shan, Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi	Increasing the development impact of labour migration through strengthened governance and partnership
CARE, Pyoe Pin, Business Kind Myanmar	Yangon	Vocational and industry based skills training for migrant women in Yangon’s garment industry. Interventions for safe migration.
EDEN	Yangon	Safe migration and empowerment for victims of sex trafficking
IOM, University of Sussex, Metta Development Foundation	Nationwide	Quantitative and qualitative research on capitalising human mobility for poverty alleviation and inclusive development in Myanmar

◀ **Table 4.7**
LIFT-funded projects on Migration 2017

trafficking victims are directed towards major cities in Myanmar and the Asian region.

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”:
Palermo Protocol UN General Assembly Resolution, 2000.

In response to a direct request for technical assistance by the government, LIFT projects work with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population (MoLIP) to improve international employment standards, focusing specifically on recruitment processes, complaint mechanisms and welfare systems that provide migrants and their families with protection when they find themselves in difficult situations.

LIFT’s project, implemented by ILO, facilitated an intense dialogue on the revised *Law Related to Overseas Employment* among the government, private sector and civil society. Over 100 parliamentarians engaged in a lively consultation on internal and international labour migration and requested more roundtable discussions.⁷⁷ Civil society organisations (CSO)s demanded a law with harsher penalties for unlicensed recruitment agencies that were breaking the law, as well as better support services for abused migrants. A zero draft was completed by the government, with ILO’s technical input, in 2017 and sent to the office of the Attorney General. The LIFT-funded project works closely with UN Women and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-funded regional TRIANGLE project.

LIFT’s work is not limited to the drafting of a new law. It also aims to build migration capacity and coordination at union, state and regional levels, since passing a new law without having the capacity to effectively implement it would be futile. In 2017, 437 state and regional government officials and local CSOs in Patheingyi, Keng Tung, Yangon, Sittwe, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay attended trainings on recruitment processes, internal migration and legal protection of domestic workers. Sixty-three percent of those taking part were women. Participants provided valuable reflections on the draft Overseas Employment Law, such as the need to decentralise recruitment processes to reduce exploitive practices. At the request of MoLIP, a brief pilot training was designed for labour attachés to support and protect international

migrants. All trainings incorporated gender-sensitive elements, such as women and men’s access to regular migration; the range of job opportunities available; accessibility of labour protection; different responses to abuse; harmful effects of the ban on domestic workers, and barriers women face in recruitment and employment if pregnant.

LIFT is represented by its partners, ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in the working group developing the National Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2018—2023). In 2017, LIFT also supported Myanmar government officials to actively contribute to the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. The Consensus, agreed by all ASEAN member states, provides a more comprehensive framework for the protection of migrants’ rights and can be used to guide policy development in Myanmar.

Collaborating with industries for responsible, profitable, rural-to-urban labour migration

Myanmar is undergoing a structural transformation, moving away from a rural, agricultural economy towards a more urban, industrial and service-based economy. Predictions point to a sharp increase in rural to urban labour migration, a prerequisite for Myanmar’s industrialisation, which will require abundant labour and skills. However, migrants often lack the necessary skills and support needed to benefit from, and contribute to, industrialisation. Migrants often have unrealistic expectations of what working in urban areas will be like, and experience disorientation and social marginalisation, making them vulnerable to exploitation.

LIFT works with the garment industry in Yangon, which employs one of the largest factory workforces in Myanmar. Three-quarters of the workers originate from outside of Yangon.⁷⁸ They are mostly female migrants from rural areas who remit a large share of their earnings back home to their families. For many rural households remittances are a growing, if not the main, source of income.⁷⁹

International garment brand representatives and the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) project that the garment industry will grow from a USD 912 million industry in 2012 to a USD 8-10 billion industry employing up to 1-1.5 million workers by 2022.⁸⁰ Currently, close to 400,000 people work in this industry.⁸¹ The European Union is Myanmar’s main export market. Germany and the UK are the lead importers.⁸²

The Aung Myin Hmu project, Industry Solutions for Safe Employment, is implemented in partnership with CARE, Pyoe Pin and Business Kind Myanmar. The project started in March 2017 to support migrant workers through safe migration messaging, industry-based skills training, job placements, and protective and supportive systems to fight exploitation and gender-based violence. The project received an unprecedented amount

77 Parliamentarians requested further consultations on: migrant domestic workers; child labour in domestic work and relevant international labour standards; updates on the draft Overseas Employment Law; the issuance of national ID cards and temporary household registration lists to internal migrants (integration) and children of migrant workers; forced migration; migration and financial literacy/management skills for migrants and their families; and social protection for migrant workers.

78 Water Aid (2016). *Living Conditions of Garment Factory Workers Baseline Survey Report*.

79 IOM et al. 2018, CHIME Research Report, forthcoming.

80 Business Innovation Facility (BIF) (2014). *Supporting Growth in the Myanmar Garment Market Workshop Report*. Hong Kong.

81 Statistics from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association. <http://www.myanmar-garmaments.org/>

82 Statistics from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association. <http://www.myanmar-garmaments.org/>

of interest from the Ministry of Labour, Population and Immigration (MoLIP), garment factories, potential trainees and media.

There has been much greater demand than anticipated from MoLIP and factories for vocational skills training. As a result LIFT has approved additional funding to expand the project, increasing the number of trainees from 5,600 to 20,000 through close cooperation with 20 garment factories and by working with the Myanmar National Skills Authority for the certification of skills. A conservative estimate on the increase of salaries for female garment workers participating in this LIFT project is USD 25 per month. For 20,000 trained workers this salary increase amounts to USD 6 million per year – a good return on LIFT's USD 2.5 million investment in this activity.

The progress to date is impressive. In cooperation with MoLIP, a new training centre was designed and refurbished by mid 2017, only months after the project started. As a result of this success, MoLIP granted the project additional space at its facility to establish a model training centre for garment workers.

There are approximately 100 garment factories in Yangon that have over 1,000 workers. MoLIP called a meeting with 80 of them soon after visiting the training centre, demonstrating the Ministry's convening power. MoLIP's Director General, U Win Shein, said they would collaborate fully with LIFT's project to drive the establishment of accredited and standardised factory training lines to develop workers' skills and support the industry's growth.

In addition to its collaboration with the GoM, the project works directly with factories that have over 1,000 workers to accredit their training lines. In 2017, two MoUs were signed with Bogart Lingerie and Eurogate to establish accredited in-factory training lines. An additional 10 factories are currently being identified. LIFT's project trains the factory's trainers who then deliver the accredited curriculum to workers in their own factories, ultimately benefitting workers and increasing the competitiveness of Myanmar's garment industry.

The project cooperates with MoLIP's National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) to develop much-needed National Occupational Competency Standards (NOCS) for the garment industry. To date, only the Level 1 NOCS for garment sewing machine operators has been approved. By the project's end, there will be another 19 NOCS between levels 1-4, including supervisory skills, cutting, quality control, mechanics and other specialist subjects such as lingerie sewing and tailoring. Two-thirds of the revised curriculum will cover technical skills and one-third will cover industrial skills (occupational, health and safety, labour rights and responsibilities) and basic skills (cognitive and life skills, such as financial management, safe remittances, communication, problem solving, good nutrition, safe health practices, and sexual harassment in the workplace). The integration of industrial and basic skills into the

NOCS qualification is new for Myanmar and not commonly seen in Asia. All trainees will take the NSSA assessments. Workers can use their official accreditation to negotiate wages. This is a major step forward, as most workers currently have no certification or evidence of existing skills and therefore receive low-skilled wages.

The recruitment and retention of the first batch of trainees was challenging. The project will facilitate low-cost housing for trainees in future batches, as this was identified as a major barrier to their being able to attend training at the centre. To help reduce drop-out rates, the project now provides trainees with an orientation on the first day of training that includes video presentations and information on life and work in the garment industry. Trainees are given information about factory size and location, bus routes and working hours. They are free to leave the training after the first day if they realise the garment industry is not for them. These improvements to the project are expected to increase enrolment and reduce drop-out rates substantially.

Before facilitating a job match between trainees and a factory, LIFT's partners request audit certificates or meet with human resource managers to ensure that working conditions are acceptable. This includes a review of the contracts, working hours, overtime policy, health, safety and salary pay system. Demand from factories for the trainees is high. It is expected that 100 per cent of the trainees will find jobs at a higher rate of pay than those trained in unmonitored factory training lines.⁸³

In 2017, VisionFund Myanmar, one of LIFT's financial inclusion partners, developed financial products specifically for garment workers and in 2018 will begin delivering these to workers, close to their place of employment.

Raising awareness of safe and rewarding migration through media and civil society

To leverage migration for development, aspiring migrants, current migrants, their families and communities require more awareness and knowledge of the risks and opportunities related to migration. LIFT is testing migration messaging through various channels to ensure it is effective and reaches target audiences, and that advice is being transformed into action.

LIFT's partner, BBC Media Action, began their programme in 2017, using media to inform decisions about migration and financial management. This includes 48 episodes, broadcast weekly, on a national radio programme. Key themes are receiving, saving, and investing remittances, and practical information on the risks and opportunities of migration. This is delivered through the voices of contributors that highlight, in feature stories, positive and negative impacts of migration on families and individuals. There is also a strong focus on labour rights and decent work, providing audiences with information on employment and skills development.⁸⁴ The programme conducted a gender analysis and is working to challenge

⁸³ All factories give training to new workers, but the training is unregulated, often done on an ad-hoc basis by untrained supervisor/trainers

⁸⁴ In the first four months the programme has outlined the training and skills needed for different work sectors, provided information on social security cards, labour cards, occupational safety and compensation for occupational injuries, workplace bullying, different types of leave entitlements, salary calculation, and employment contracts.

85 The term “modern slavery” is a recently coined term that incorporates slavery, forced labour and slavery-like practices. The definitions for these constituent terms reside in a body of international law most significantly the Slavery and Supplementary Slavery Conventions (1926 and 1956 respectively), and the Forced Labour Convention and Protocol (1930 and 2014 respectively). The 1926 Slavery Convention defines slavery as “the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to ownership are exercised,” and the 1956 Supplementary Convention makes plain that both bonded labour and servile marriage are “slavery-like practices”. The 1956 Convention also defines child slavery as the handing over of a child to a third party for the purposes of exploitation. This differs from child labour in that child labour generally occurs in the context of the child’s own family. Both differ from “child work” in that neither are in the best interests of the child, generally interfering, at minimum, with the child’s schooling. The 1930 Convention defines forced labour as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself (sic) voluntarily.” A further term that is frequently used in the discussion of forced labour and slavery is “trafficking”. This is defined in the 2000 UN Palermo Protocol, but it is most concisely understood as the process of rendering a person into a situation of forced labour or slavery. In 2017 the International Labour Organization (ILO), together with the Walk Free Foundation and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), estimated that there are 40.3 million people in slavery worldwide.

86 <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/>

gender stereotypes and barriers found in the analysis. An overview of the first 16 episodes and themes can be found on LIFT’s website.

“I would like to go and work abroad and I am now starting to know how to prepare before going. I talked to some returnees but could not get details from them and received very little information. From this programme, I got the chance to know what I would like to know.”

LC participant, Kan Taw Pyin, Ranbre, Rakhine

The project supports CSOs and community-based organisation (CBO) partners in eight states and regions to facilitate inclusive community discussions about migration and financial management. Weekly radio listening groups are being held. Feedback indicates that audiences appear to have limited access to information or awareness of the options available to help them make decisions on safe migration, in spite of high levels of migration, exploitation and trafficking occurring during the recruitment process in Myanmar. Discussion of negative experiences of migration does not seem to be common.

The project is also building the capacity of Myanmar’s state media, including seven emerging ethnic and community media organisations, to produce programmes that inform and engage audiences on migration and finance choices. By 2019, around four million people are expected to have been reached by the media programme on safe migration.

“[We] didn’t know clearly what is a legal [registered] agency before. But now we understand.”

Shwe Si, Bahmo, Kachin State

In addition to mass media communication channels, LIFT is financing a large rural outreach project on safe and rewarding migration that will cover more than 650 villages in 30 townships in seven states and regions. In 2017, LIFT’s project partners IOM, Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF), and several civil society organisations covered 314 villages in Chin, Mon, Shan States and the Dry Zone.

The project has worked with 33 local CSO partners, building their capacity to proactively address the significant migration trends in their communities. IOM prepared a pre-migration curriculum and guides for trainers. Trainings began in November, benefitting more than 4,000 people through 165 sessions. The diversity of migration destinations posed some challenges in developing relevant lessons and modules and as a result necessary adaptations were made to the trainings’ content. One of LIFT’s partner in Chin State, Chin Human Rights Organization, arranged theatre shows in 13 villages of Hakha township, reaching around 2,000 people. Working with local CSO partners will improve the sustainability of migration-related information delivery and

assistance to communities beyond the project.

LIFT is supporting PGMF, Myanmar’s largest microfinance provider with over 1 million clients, to work for the first time on migration. PGMF trains families receiving remittances on rural investment opportunities and the importance of saving remittances and investing in income-generating activities. PGMF also trained the field staff of local partner CSOs (82 male and 59 female) on the importance of remittance saving. LIFT’s CSO partners cascaded the trainings to village level, reaching more than 7,500 individuals.

LIFT also provides skills training for those who wish to invest remittances in their own businesses. In 2017, 365 people (168 female and 197 male) completed skills development courses in welding, electric wiring, carpentry, masonry, diesel engine repairing, motorcycle repairing, mobile phone repairing, hairdressing, sewing, sales, accounting and the English language.

Highlighting gender aspects of migration including addressing abuse and trafficking

More than half of the nine million internal migrants in Myanmar are women. LIFT is aware of the risks migrant women can face and supports efforts that prevent and protect against abuse, trafficking and other forms of ‘modern slavery’.⁸⁵ More than 40 million people are currently estimated to be living in modern slavery globally.⁸⁶

Support for domestic workers, many of whom are under 18 years of age, is a particular focus of LIFT’s. Internationally, domestic workers are recognised as one of the groups most vulnerable to trafficking and servitude. They are often confined to private residences and have limited contact with the outside world. Currently, domestic workers are not protected by Myanmar’s labour laws and have little recourse to justice when faced with abuse. A LIFT-funded ILO project is working towards ratification of Convention 189 on Domestic Work for Domestic Workers and the development of respective policies. The project maps the current situation for domestic workers in Myanmar, including the legal framework, recruitment processes, and working conditions. Actors in the sector advise the project on policies for decent work. In order to progress, LIFT sees a need to increase the public’s awareness on the challenges and needs of domestic workers.

In March 2017, LIFT started a new grassroots initiative for female migrants trafficked into sex work in Yangon. LIFT’s partner EDEN runs weekly outreach programmes to red-light areas in Yangon and reaches about 40 people each week. A safe house was opened in May 2017 with the capacity to care for around 30 women. The shelter offers a secure and nurturing environment for the women and young girls that have been rescued from sexual exploitation. The average age of women receiving assistance at the safe house is 18 years.

In an anonymous quality assessment survey, 100 percent of EDEN's beneficiaries "strongly agreed" that they "felt safe living in the shelter."

All of the young girls and women have suffered some form of extreme trauma, including psychological damage from captivity and fear of reprisals. Female trafficking victims are frequently subjected to rape, forced prostitution, and other forms of physical abuse, placing them at high risk of sexually transmitted infections. Their traumas have often begun even before the trafficking experience, due to stress caused by family illness or indebtedness. Beyond the shelter, EDEN also provides trauma-focused cognitive behavioural and art therapy to the young women.

Without counselling it is unlikely that these women would be able to reintegrate back into their communities and fully recover from their trafficking experience. To ease reintegration, EDEN offers training in jewellery making, hairdressing, beauty therapy, using computers, barista skills, baking, retail, sales, and English language for beginners

Establishing a migration knowledge partnership for Myanmar to drive the migration agenda

By 2016, LIFT had entered into partnerships with 15 migration stakeholders representing the government, UN agencies, the private sector, microfinance institutions, job-matching platforms, academia, civil society organisations, mass media, and INGOs to make the migration experience of women and men safe and empowering. In 2017, LIFT organised regular coordination meetings to strive for a meaningful knowledge partnership that energises and empowers innovation and sustainable action, benefiting from each other's complementary skills, expertise, and perspectives on migration and development. Two of LIFT's donor countries, Australia and Switzerland, directly fund two regional migration programmes, TRIANGLE and PROMISE. A close exchange with these programmes contributes to the generation, validation and synthesis of knowledge, and the harnessing of creative approaches to drive Myanmar's migration agenda—with the ultimate aim of reducing risks and increasing benefits for migrants and their families. In the second half of 2017, LIFT launched the Myanmar Migration Nexus, an online knowledge platform to inform on labour migration programming in Myanmar.

Migration research

Data collection for the LIFT-funded mixed-method study on migration was completed in 2017 by the Migrating Out of Poverty Consortium, comprised of IOM, the University of Sussex and Metta Foundation. Quantitative and qualitative data was collected from rural households in each of LIFT's four geographic areas and a total of 3,440 households were surveyed at two points

of time to account for seasonal variations. The research focuses on labour migration patterns and the impacts of migration at the individual, household, and community levels. The findings of the study will be used as a tool to support government and non-government actors in developing strategies and policies to increase the developmental role of migration. In 2018, the research team will report and disseminate findings.

Looking ahead

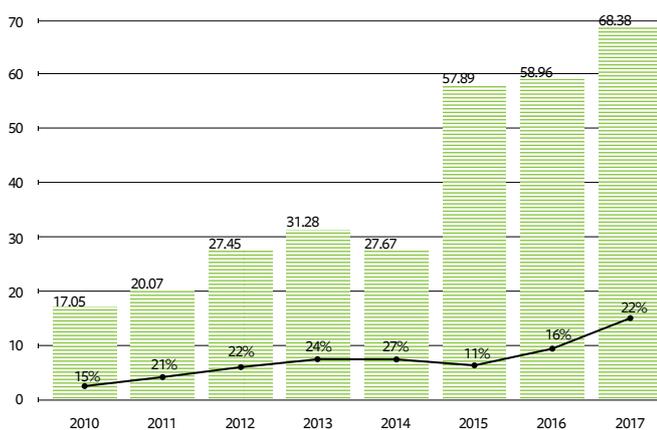
LIFT projects will continue to work with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population (MoLIP) to improve international employment standards, focusing specifically on recruitment processes, complaint mechanisms and welfare systems. The mass media outreach projects will start to identify and train local media partners to improve LIFT's reach with audiences who do not speak Myanmar language, and build the capacity of ethnic language media agencies. This large community outreach project will reach seven states and divisions of Myanmar.

A particular focus of LIFT's project for migrant women working in Yangon's garment sector will be to further study sustainability mechanisms for garment sector training in Myanmar, including the possibility of establishing a public-private partnership. Initial research has focused on existing finance and governance models for technical vocational education and training in the garment sectors of other countries in Southeast Asia, as these are most likely to be replicable in Myanmar. MoLIP has made a significant contribution to the initial research and helped determine the political viability of various options. MoLIP has proposed a legal amendment that will require factories with over 1,000 workers to have training lines in factories. MoLIP also intends to establish a skills development fund, financed through a 0.5 per cent skills levy on payrolls. Uncertainty around these legal amendments, particularly with respect to the establishment, management, and responsibility for running the skills development fund, still remain. The LIFT-financed training centre project is considering various options, such as remaining donor funded, establishing a membership model, becoming a government-funded and -owned training centre, working within the skills development fund framework, and establishing a multi-stakeholder partnership. A range of funding options may be appropriate over the long term.

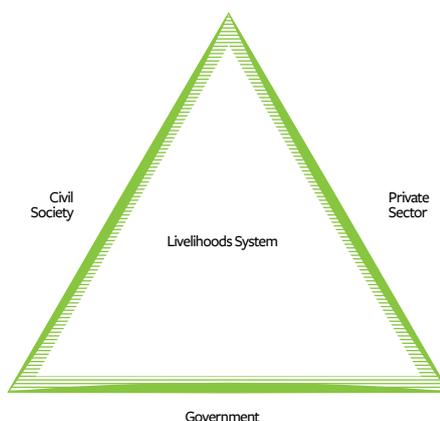
Another priority for the next period is the design of LIFT's new Decent Work and Labour Mobility Strategy.⁸⁷ As the current LIFT funding cycle ends in December 2018, LIFT's Fund Board agreed on a new funding cycle up to 2023 covering four thematic areas, of which Decent Work and Labour Mobility is expected to be one. Scoping studies, consultations, and strategy drafting will take place

⁸⁷ 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, organize 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.

in the first half of 2018, followed by design of the new programme and calls for proposals. LIFT is making a considerable contribution to reducing the risks of trafficking and advancing access to decent work through its programmes and policy work, by reducing levels of chronic indebtedness, working to diversify employment in the rural economy, providing vocational training and promoting safe migration. In addition to these contributions, additional strategic choices will be explored that would lead to improvements in LIFT’s development impacts by decreasing the risks of poverty-perpetuating modern-day slavery among vulnerable Myanmar families.



▲ **Figure 4.6**
Percentage of LIFT funding granted for Myanmar CSO



► **Figure 4.7**
The role of Civil Society in the Livelihoods System

“A stronger system requires that all struts of the triangle are strengthened. This representation stresses that livelihoods are formed within social, economic, political and environmental contexts. As well as being a key systems player in all contexts, civil society has a particular role in affecting the social determinants of livelihoods and food insecurity.”

4.4 Civil Society

Engaging with civil society is an integral part of LIFT’s work on sustainable livelihood system strengthening. This focus is in line with commitments made as part of the Grand Bargain agreement in 2016, which was endorsed by nine of LIFT’s donor consortium member countries: Australia, Denmark, the European Commission (representing the European Union), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Grants to civil society organisations in LIFT’s livelihoods and food security projects have gradually increased over time.

As seen in above, LIFT’s programme expenditure in 2017 to civil society organisations was 22 per cent of the 68.38 million spent on development programming in 2017.

One of LIFT’s civil society initiatives was to apply a system strengthening approach to reinforce relationships and enhance checks and balances among the three main actors affecting the development of livelihoods: government, civil society and the private sector.

Since its inception LIFT has worked with CSOs through its normal funding windows. In 2016, new processes were implemented to assist CSOs in fulfilling proposal requirements, resulting in an increase in the proportion of LIFT funds being granted to Myanmar CSOs. In 2016, strategic partnerships were formed and small grant funds were established in the Delta, Dry Zone and Uplands.

Small Grant Funds

Through the small grant programme, LIFT aims to strengthen township-level livelihood systems by supporting township-level civil society organisations in the Delta, Dry Zone and Upland areas.

The Upland Township Fund (USD 3.5 million) is a consortium of SWISSAID, Metta and GRET. SWISSAID covers Kachin and Southern Shan. Metta works in selected townships of northern Shan State and Kayah State. GRET works in Chin State.

The small grants fund in the Delta (USD 2.1 million) is facilitated by GRET and the Dry Zone small grants fund (USD 2.2 million) is facilitated by PACT.

In 2017, the small grant programmes in Uplands and Delta completed their inception phases and developed operational guidelines, formed fund evaluation committees and began operations. The Upland Township Fund (UTF) had 54 grants approved and contracted. In the Delta, 17 of the 33 proposals were contracted by the Delta Small Grant Fund (SGF). The Dry Zone Small Grant Fund will assess proposals and disburse grants in 2018. The funding disbursed to the small grantees by the end of 2017 is shown in the table below:

UTF	Delta SGF	Dry Zone SGF
USD 898,371	USD 152,067	-

The UTF offers three types of grant: a smaller **seed grant** that allows CSOs to make preliminary inquiries of any sort before applying for a core grant; a larger **core grant** to undertake activities that contribute to the programme's core purposes; and a rapid **opportunity grant** for funding one-off activities to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

PACT in the Dry Zone disburses two types of grant. A fixed amount award is provided to projects without regard to the actual costs incurred by the grantee throughout the project. Cost reimbursable grants cover costs incurred during a project up to the total amount specified in the grant. Costs must be allowable by the grant's terms and conditions and accountability is measured by technical progress, financial accounting and fiscal reporting.

In the Delta, GRET delivers two types of grants. The project grant directly contributes to the fund's core objectives and programmatic interests, is provided in instalments and can be awarded to applicants who will carry out projects in two or more phases. The special grant supports smaller CSOs and projects that are not capable of absorbing large amounts. It can also be used to help civil society foster innovation and develop their intervention ideas before applying for a core grant.

The three small grant funds share similar theories of change and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning (MEAL) plans, but there are variations in their structures. The UTF team uses the grants approval committee structure. GRET uses a township advisory committee model that includes government staff and other stakeholders to incorporate technical advice from the government and improve collaboration with communities and local government. PACT's fund in the Dry Zone is implemented by a committee of five PACT staff and one CSO representative. The three funds' different approaches have been developed to suit each local context. Their progress is monitored by LIFT's Civil Society Strengthening Programme and an analysis of the different approaches will be produced in 2018.

LIFT held a learning event in May 2017 for the three small grant funds to share their different approaches to civil society strengthening. Participants from small grant funds reported that the livelihoods strengthening concept remained difficult for some CSO partners to grasp. Strategies for developing CSOs' understanding of how civil society, government and the private sector can work together in strengthening township livelihood systems were discussed. The next learning event in November 2018 will be conducted in Myanmar language to improve discussion among Myanmar representatives from the three funds.

Township system strengthening in Upland areas

One aspect of the township system strengthening is the forging of connections between

CSOs, government and the private sector. In 2017, all nine UTF grantees became better connected with each other. The Kayah Area Fund Team (AFT) and Metta's branch office played an important role in facilitating CSOs' engagement with different stakeholders.

Four grantees (RDA, LAIN, K-Times and KLCC) achieved better recognition by township authorities:

Kantarawaddy Times (K-Times) is a local news agency based in Demoso that in 2017 partnered with a larger media agency, Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), to produce a Kayah language television news programme. The agency organised two public meetings with government departments, the private sector, CSOs and village leaders and facilitated round table discussions about livelihood challenges, conditions and markets for local products. K-Times plays an important role in raising public awareness of CSO activities in Kayah State and sharing information.

The **Lobbyist Advocator Innovator Negotiator Technical Support Group (LAIN)** is based in Loikaw and works in Loikaw, Demoso and Pekon Townships. The organisation provides technical assistance to CSOs and micro-enterprises. They now work with the government's Small Medium Enterprises Department and with banks, linking government and private sector support to communities.

The **Rural Development Agency (RDA)** from Loikaw met with the Government Administration Department (GAD) and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), an armed, ethnic organisation, to introduce their work. As a result, the government's Livestock Department and the Department of Agriculture provided technical resources for RDA's farmer training sessions.

Kayan Literature and Culture Committee (KLCC) connected with the government's trade department to promote and sell traditional handicrafts.

Strategic partnerships with CSOs

LIFT designed strategic civil society partnerships in 2016, acting on a recommendation of a LIFT-commissioned study on engagement with CSOs. Through the partnerships, LIFT provides capacity development and policy engagement to strategic civil society partners. The partners provide LIFT with access to specific contextual analysis and insights into Myanmar's civil society.

The first three strategic partnerships were formed with the Food Security Working Group (FSWG), the Land Core Group (LCG) and the Gender Equality Network (GEN). In 2017, long-term strategic partnerships with civil society organisations Metta Development Foundation (Metta), Network Activity Group (NAG) and Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) were established.

The criteria used to select CSOs for strategic partnership are:

- | CSOs with good reach and credibility within civil society in Myanmar
- | CSOs with a demonstrated commitment to strengthening civil society beyond their own organisation
- | CSOs with a good track record of successfully implementing livelihoods projects, either in a reasonable broad geographic area, or in key policy areas
- | CSOs that share LIFT's long-term development plans

Through strategic partnerships with local CSOs, LIFT expects to achieve the following:

- | Better and more visible results of LIFT's efforts on civil society strengthening
- | Improved contextual understanding for LIFT of the social and political landscape of Myanmar, including a more inclusive understanding of civil society
- | More involvement of CSOs in policy dialogue related to livelihoods and food security
- | More interactive linkages and networks within civil society and between CSOs and government agencies

In the first half of 2017, the **Gender Equality Network (GEN)** completed a mapping report of services available for gender-based violence survivors in Myanmar. This identified providers of different types of services, assessed the practical needs of survivors and their ability to access these services. The report and its recommendations are being translated for launch in 2018.

GEN organised several awareness-raising activities in 2017, including a Valentine's Day fun fair and 'love race' in People's Park, Yangon. Over 400 couples participated in the 'love race', a series of fun activities that delivered messages about the importance of mutual respect in relationships. A television segment on these activities aired during prime time. GEN also participated in the Human Rights Human Dignity Film Festival and sponsored short TV clips created by Yangon Film School students, highlighting the challenges of gender-based violence in Myanmar.

GEN participated in the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, providing recommendations to the high-level inter-ministerial commission and also helped to design and activate its four technical working groups. GEN also continued to represent civil society groups within the Gender Equality and Women Development Coordination Partner Group under the Development Assistance Coordination Unit, and to participate in the Alliance for Inclusion in the Peace Process and advocate for the passage of a comprehensive Prevention of Violence Against Women Law.

GEN completed a study exploring the impact of gender on the experiences of political candidates in the 2015 elections. The study investigated the low levels of women's

participation in the national and state/regional parliaments through 60 in-depth interviews. This examined the backgrounds, motivations, challenges, and strategies of men and women campaigning for seats in the parliaments.

In 2017, the **Food Security Working Group** played an important role in the facilitation of state- and regional-level consultations for the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI) and consultants working with MoALI. The public consultations allowed MoALI to hear from people directly about their concerns on a wide range of policy issues related to food security.

Land Core Group (LCG) built trust and relationships with key stakeholders and government departments working on policies such as the National Land Use Policy and on amendments to laws such as the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Land Management Law, farmland laws, land acquisition laws, and forestry laws.

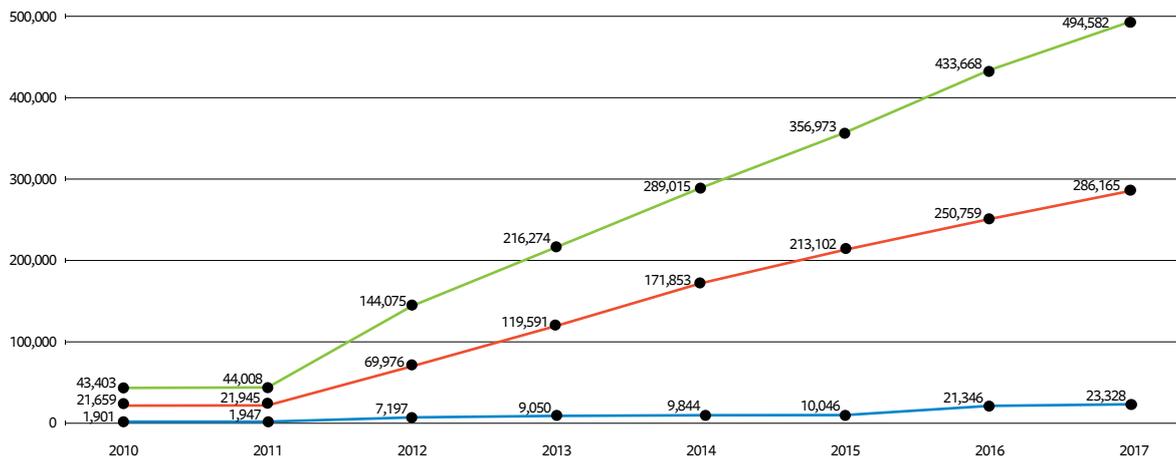
Capacity building among LIFT partners

Since LIFT began, it has provided support to communities through its implementing partners. This support has included trainings, exchange visits, workshops, seminars, coaching and mentoring. In 2017, LIFT's partners continued to deliver different types of technical capacity building trainings to project beneficiaries, project staff, and government staff to strengthen their 'to-be', 'to-do', 'to-relate' and 'to-influence' capacities. The total number of participants and the number of female participants continued to increase. The growth is shown in the following chart. LIFT's partners' capacity building plans have so far reached almost 500,000 people, 286,000 of those are women, in 33 per cent of Myanmar's villages.

Civil society research forum

In 2017, LIFT organised a civil society research forum in Yangon, attended by more than 100 participants from CSOs, parliamentarians from 14 states and regions, and representatives from donors and international NGOs. Findings from two studies on seven civil society networks in Myanmar were shared. The Art of Networking (Paung Ku and Christian Aid) and Understanding Civil Society Networks (LIFT) were presented and a panel discussion followed about how networks have evolved in Myanmar, how they influence change, and what the future holds for civil society networks in Myanmar.

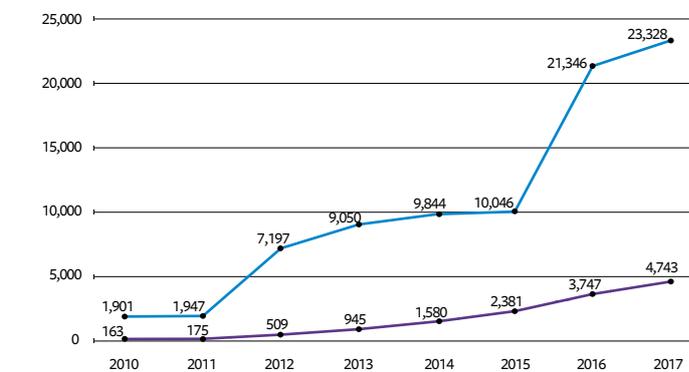
The forum was strongly grounded in research and evidence that informed the dialogue. The forum was well attended by parliamentarians and important in helping to promote a more inclusive dialogue between people and their elected government representatives. It took place during the early stages of reform across a wide range of sectors, including that of governance. Parliamentarians requested that similar forums be held regularly.



A broad consensus on the following points emerged during the workshop:

- ‡ The government, parliamentarians and CSOs, need to develop mutual understanding of, and respect for, their respective roles and strengths in providing democratic governance. This is essential for developing trust between people at the community level and their elected representatives. One panelist expressed his concern that the government seemed to be “allergic to civil society.” Only by working in cooperation with each other will mutual understanding be developed and nurtured between these two groups. An example of a cooperation opportunity discussed at the forum was the government informing CSOs and the public that they could feed their viewpoints into the special taskforce that is working on amendments to the Yangon City Development Affairs Law.
- ‡ A key role for CSOs is to give a voice to people at the community level to communicate their needs and expectations to their elected representatives. This enables government to hear the voice of the people via CSOs that are actively engaged at the local level in participatory consultations with communities.
- ‡ CSOs can provide technical expertise to the government in certain areas.
- ‡ In certain situations, CSOs may also be well-placed to facilitate interfaith dialogue to promote peace and reconciliation.
- ‡ CSOs need to be more innovative, creative, and self-reflective in order to strengthen their respective roles with communities and government. One approach discussed was the use of innovative social technology to promote self-awareness, critical thinking, and practical life skills.
- ‡ Civil society needs to be prepared to work with a wide range of government stakeholders.
- ‡ CSOs may be overlooked if they are not registered.
- ‡ Several participants raised concerns about the sustainability of CSO networks and developing constructive relationships between CSOs and government. It was suggested that CSOs could be considered in broader terms to encompass organisations such as labour unions.

▲ **Figure 4.7**
Cumulative training achievements



Looking ahead

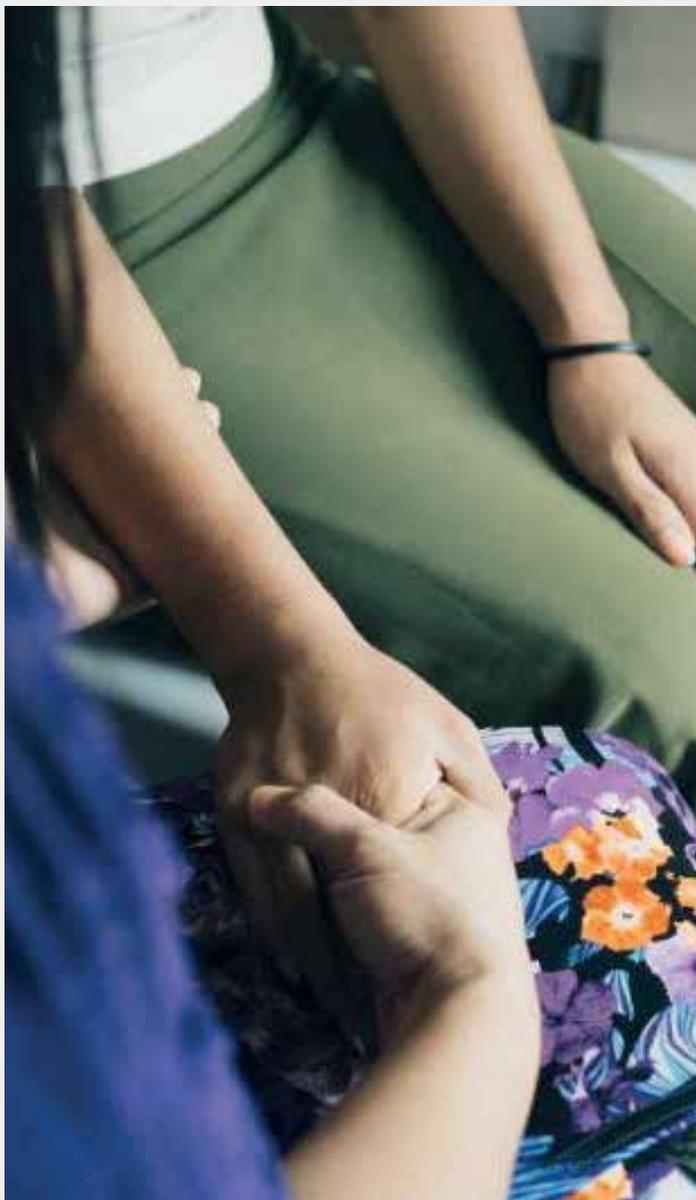
In early 2018, LIFT began considering its strategy and programming beyond the current funding cycle and strategy that will conclude at the end of 2018. As part of this process, LIFT’s Civil Society Programme held a learning event to reflect and consult with CSOs on LIFT’s civil society strengthening initiatives and mechanisms. More than 80 participants from the Delta, Dry Zone, Yangon, Kachin and Kayah States joined the event.

Key conclusions from the learning event about LIFT’s Civil Society Strengthening Programme were:

- ‡ LIFT’s programme has created good networking opportunities between civil society and government. More private sector involvement is desired.
- ‡ LIFT’s flexibility is appreciated, for example, by not requiring CSOs to be registered.
- ‡ LIFT acknowledges that language barriers exist and works to bridge them.
- ‡ Long-term grants are valued for their capacity building qualities and for allowing projects to run over longer implementation periods when necessary to create the desired impact.
- ‡ CSOs would like more evidence-based learning and information sharing opportunities.

▲ **Table 4.7**
Number of villages where trainings were conducted (2010-2017)

Protecting female migrants



Mar Lar,⁸⁸ 18 years of age, said: “I feel comfortable and find it useful. I am learning to make positive decisions about my future and I can feel my behaviour is changing.”

In Bayint Naung, Yangon, EDEN found 18 girls working together in a brothel. Five of them were aged between 13 and 14. They were either migrants or runaways, freshly arrived in the city and looking for work. Some brothel owners have arrangements with trishaw taxi drivers and pay drivers MMK 150,000 (USD 110) for every girl they bring to the brothel. The young women are then locked in the brothel for three months, until she has paid off this debt.

Family members - parents, aunts, cousins or other relatives - are also selling girls to the brothel for MMK 150,000 (USD 110). The same rule applies: the girl must remain in the brothel for three months until she has paid off the debt. There are women that self-refer into this system when they need a quick loan to support their family in emergency situations and will sign themselves into the debt bondage for three months.⁸⁹

They also report that local police are paid by the brothels to allow them to continue to operate. One way that brothel bosses protect themselves is by employing a ‘fake boss’ who is paid to go to prison in the event of a raid by the trafficking police. It is therefore difficult for enforcement operations to catch the people in charge.

Through established relationships with a boss in Thamai, EDEN obtained access to a brothel where this occurred. EDEN was shocked by the conditions. It was a derelict house with makeshift rooms made of linoleum. As the girls came in one by one for counselling, they burst into tears telling their stories of captivity—how they had been sold to the brothel and not allowed to leave. EDEN provided their contact details and encouraged the girls to find an opportunity to escape, take a taxi and call EDEN. Several days later EDEN received a call from one of the victims saying that two of them had escaped and were on the way to the centre. EDEN was able to help them to return to their families and villages. Since then EDEN has rescued another four trafficked victims from the same brothel. The brothel has since closed down as the owner fled to escape his debts to moneylenders. EDEN learned that all of the women and girls working in the brothel were subsequently released.

⁸⁸ Name changed in order to protect the beneficiary's identity.

⁸⁹ Debt bondage is defined in the 1956 Supplementary Convention on Slavery as a slavery-like practice.







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 - below the average height for 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. Stunting has long-term effects on a child's development and economic potential. Children who receive good nutrition in the first 1,000 days complete more grades of school and earn up to 21 per cent more as adults. Nutrition, education and livelihood opportunities are therefore closely linked.

Stunting is not only a health issue. Nutrition-specific interventions are needed across many sectors in order to reach more people and have sustainable impacts. There is increasing evidence that shows nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture, education, health, water and sanitation, and social protection result in better nutrition outcomes. 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. Civil society organisations also have an important role to play by providing effective social accountability mechanisms.

Strengthening capacity

Support for improved nutrition cuts across LIFT's programming and policy engagement in a number of important areas. With respect to gender, improved nutrition is central to helping women reach their full economic and social potential. LIFT's engagement focuses on improving nutrition for children and women so they are healthier, better educated, and have access to safe jobs. LIFT support includes cash transfers and nutrition education covering the first 1,000 days of a child's life to prevent stunted growth.

LIFT's engagement with the health sector in Myanmar includes liaising with the Department of Public Health, the National Nutrition Center and the Health Literacy Promotion Unit. LIFT's main objective is to strengthen institutional and human resource capacities to provide nutrition and WASH education to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, while promoting better access to maternal and

child health services. LIFT is especially focused on strengthening health sector capacities for Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC). SBCC is an important tool for empowering women to overcome complex social and economic barriers that can inhibit their ability to adopt better nutrition practices.

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture

In agriculture, LIFT is integrating nutrition-sensitive practices and nutrition messaging into its work with community groups. For example, in the Uplands programme, LIFT's implementing partners are working with farmer groups to promote vegetable cultivation while also providing information about nutrition and better dietary practices. One partner, the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID), works closely with the State Agriculture Institute in Chin State to integrate nutrition education into the curriculum for agriculture extension officers.

In the Delta, WorldFish in its MyCulture project teaches poor, rural households to grow micronutrient-rich small fish alongside commercial species in home ponds. This promotes small fish consumption in households, resulting in improved nutrition.

Mothers' and children's nutrition

All LIFT's four geographic programmes - the Delta, Dry Zone, Rakhine and Uplands - support a wide range of activities that deliver maternal cash transfers (MCCT) to pregnant and breastfeeding women and their children under age two. LIFT supports Save the Children's pilot programming for MCCT programmes, which test different cash transfer modalities and deliver nutrition education and SBCC messaging. The MCCT programme for Chin State began in 2017. LIFT is funding the programme, designed to achieve universal coverage in Chin State, and the programme is implemented by the government. Reaching agreement with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) was a major achievement in 2017. LIFT has agreed to fund the programme for two years on the understanding that the government will fund the MCCT programme in Chin State after 2019. Details of the programme and its progress in 2017 are presented in the Uplands section of this report.

In 2017, LIFT's four MCCT programmes delivered cash transfers to around 32,000 mothers, an increase of around 71 per cent compared to 2016. The sharp increase is due to the statewide coverage in Chin State.

In the Dry Zone, in 2017, Terre des Hommes (TDH)'s hydroponic project developed synergies with other LIFT partners related to nutrition. TDH began piloting a new extension approach and chose villages where UN-Habitat had worked on water, sanitation and hygiene and the Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA) had implemented nutrition activities. In these villages the

communities' understanding of good nutrition and the value of eating vegetables free of pesticides led to faster adoption of hydroponic greenhouses than in other villages.

In Rakhine's Tat Lan programme, Save the Children is complementing its MCCT programming with community-centred WASH interventions, including family and community latrines and improved access to safe drinking water.

LIFT supports work with the private sector to introduce fortified micronutrients. PATH is working to improve access to micronutrients via staple foods by commercialising fortified rice. PATH has worked closely with the National Nutrition Centre to promote the direct purchase of fortified rice by consumers, as well as the distribution of fortified rice by the government and NGOs. In 2016, the PATH project was successful in establishing the government-led Rice Fortification Working Group under the National Rice Fortification Policy and the project received approval from the Myanmar Food and Drug Authority for fortified rice kernels and for three Yangon-based fortified rice production facilities. In 2017, PATH continued to make good progress and supported a second round of supply chain actors to secure approval from Myanmar's FDA. Approvals were awarded to five additional fortified rice producers in the Ayeyarwady, Bago, and Sagaing Regions. PATH provided technical assistance to its first round of producers in Bago region, Sagaing Region, and Laputta District in assembling blending units, establishing/strengthening quality systems, and facilitating the FDA approval process. The expansion of fortified rice production to Sagain Region through the partnership with Theingi is particularly notable, as it will open up distribution channels in upper Myanmar with a highly reputable brand of rice. PATH also successfully engaged a second fortified rice kernel producer and provided technical support in vendor selection for the extrusion machine. In 2017, a cumulative total of 550 metric tons (MT) of FR was produced and 456 MT of fortified rice were distributed through more than 100 retail outlets across Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions and beyond.

To generate sustainable demand for fortified rice, PATH works with Population Services International (PSI) on a demand-generation media campaign. In 2017, the campaign used mass media (television, FM radio, print media, LED billboard, social media, mobile advertising on taxis) and interpersonal face-to-face promotion (point-of-sale market activation, fortified rice promotion events, advocacy and educational events) to promote fortified rice. PATH finalised the brand awareness and consumer pattern surveys in partnership with Myanmar Market Research and Development in the Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions. The study assessed the effectiveness of the demand-generation campaign activities and to help improve future campaigns. Two notable

social-sector partners were secured for fortified rice distribution: (1) The Department of Social Welfare agreed to replace traditional rice with fortified rice in the lunch programmes of more than 50 nursery schools across four regions, and (2) the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) procured fortified rice to distribute to conflict-affected populations in northern Rakhine State.

PATH also reached agreement to work with the World Food Programme (WFP) to distribute fortified rice and establish a fortified rice supply chain in Rakhine State. PATH worked with LIFT's Conflict Sensitivity Advisor to finalise its implementation plan and demand-generation plan for commercialisation in Rakhine State and conducted a conflict sensitivity assessment for the project. Fortified rice was acknowledged as an effective nutrition intervention and income-generating opportunity by regional government actors such as the Regional Minister of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs and the Rakhine Regional Minister of Planning and Finance. In December, PATH also received a demand schedule from the WFP for the first half of 2018.

LIFT's nutrition partnerships

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 development partners, including United Nations organisations such as UNICEF, and the 3MDG multi-donor fund. LIFT and its partners also actively engage with union, state, regional, and township authorities to promote better nutrition outcomes through cross-sector programming and policy advocacy. LIFT's primary government partners have been the Ministry of Health, the Department of Public Health, the National Nutrition Centre, the Health Literacy Promotion Unit, and the Department of Social Welfare.

5.2

Resilience

LIFT's approach to resilience

Building the resilience of poor rural households in Myanmar lies at the centre of all of LIFT's work. Strengthening resilience is LIFT's overall purpose. Resilience is defined as 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, such as 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 country second most-affected by climate change in the world.⁹⁰ 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.⁹¹ These changes impact on 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.

In 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.⁹² 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.⁹³ Salt water intrusion is threatening the livelihoods of farmers globally and in particular those in Rakhine State.⁹⁴ By the end of 2017, the Rakhine Tat Lan programme had built 260 kilometres of embankments to protect 33,204 acres of paddy fields from salt water intrusion, building the resilience of more than 6,600 households. In two townships where farmers have been trained on new climate-smart agriculture techniques 77 per cent of farmers 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.

In the 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. In 2017, LIFT contracted a new project implemented by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in partnership with the Wageningen Centre for Development and Innovation, of Wageningen University to continue development of the rice seed sector in the Ayeyarwady Delta. When farmers have access to good quality seed their resilience to climate shocks and stresses is improved in the long term.

Mechanisation, supported by LIFT's Agribusiness Finance Programme is also improving farmers' resilience in the Delta and other regions by bringing certainty to the timing of rice harvesting and planting.

In the Dry Zone

Agriculture in the Dry Zone is at risk from climate change. LIFT promotes climate-smart agriculture to increase productivity with better soils and new crop varieties. Farmers have increased knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change. LIFT projects work to increase organic matter in the soil and diversify the crop species cultivated. LIFT partners train farmers to be water smart, carbon smart and nitrogen smart.⁹⁵ Livestock activities do not attempt to have more animals in the Dry Zone, which would increase the output of greenhouse gases, but work to achieve higher income for livestock farmers by improved livestock management.

Work at the policy level

In 2017, the World Food Programme (WFP) with LIFT's support conducted a Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) analysis to guide potential emergency response priorities in food security and nutrition. The initial phase included a literature review, a mapping analysis and a pre-flood survey. Historical data on past climate trends, and model-based projections of future climate conditions were analysed to model the impact of climate change in Myanmar on food security and nutrition. The mapping analysis was used to identify historical trends and future impact of climate change. The next steps will include a national workshop and regional collaboration on resilience and climate sensitivity of livelihoods.

Research and learning on resilience

LIFT is conducting research that investigates how the fund is building resilience across its programmes. A range of outcome studies were launched in 2016 to address how LIFT is contributing to its purpose-level outcomes and how these are building resilience. Round one of the income and assets study and the vulnerability study was completed in 2017. These studies were followed by a resilience synthesis report. Round two of the outcome studies is planned for 2019.

90 Global climate risk index, 2017, <https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16411.pdf>.

91 Global Climate Change Alliance, 2017, <http://www.gcca.eu/national-programmes/asia/gcca-myanmar>.

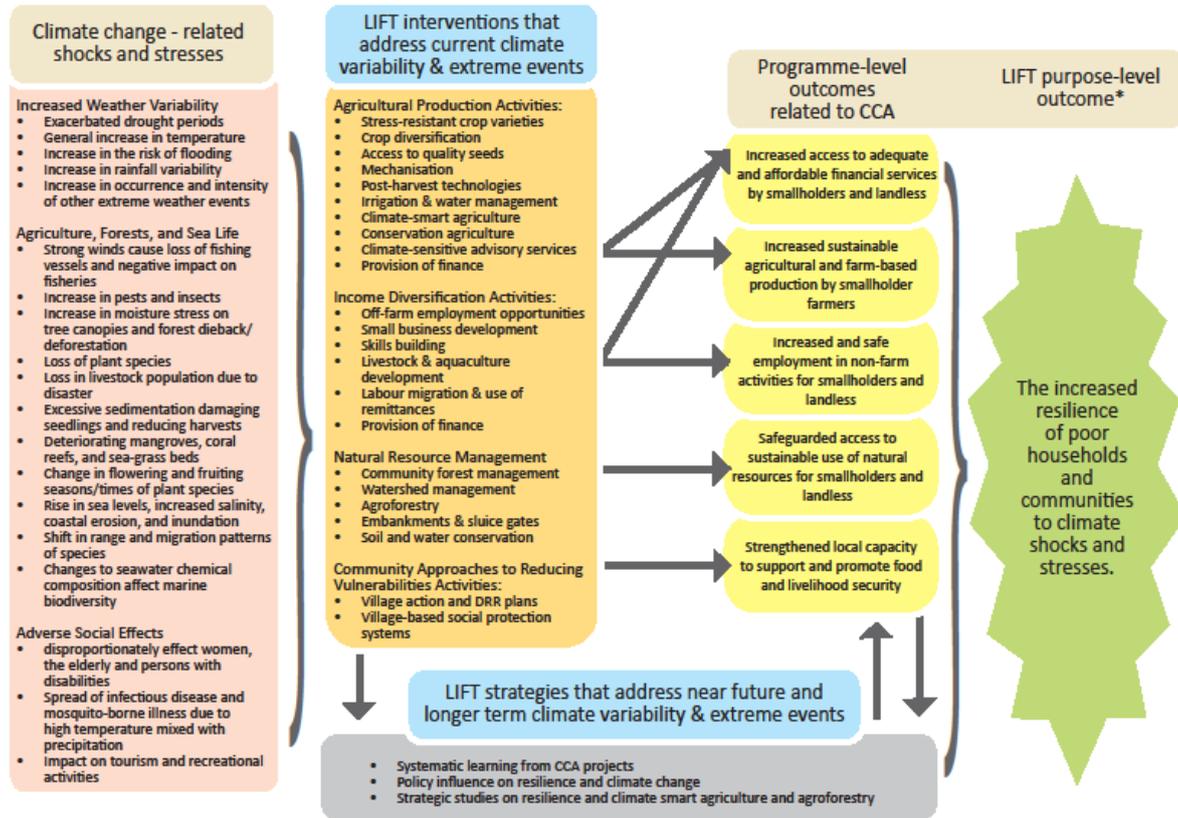
92 Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, <http://www.adpc.net/igo/contents/Publications/publications-Details.asp?pid=277#sthash.DkG4r9zM.dpbs>.

93 See LIFT's previous annual reports 2013-2015

94 Food security threatened by sea-level rise, Science Direct, January 2017, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170118082423.htm>

95 Myanmar Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2015 suggests 'smart' mitigation programmes. LIFT's Dry Zone projects are: Water smart: LIFT supports resilient water management to improve productivity and efficiency of water through responsible use of underground water and use of drip or sprinkler irrigation systems as well improved land cultivation measures. Carbon smart: Soil organic carbon increase through agricultural practices like green manure and crop diversification. Nitrogen smart: good practice for the use of fertiliser based on educated farmers able to make informed decisions about the use of fertiliser.

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.

5.3 Social Protection Engaging with government

In 2017, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW)'s social protection policy work moved forward from policy formulation to implementation. The LIFT-funded Help Age International (HAI) social protection policy project was DSW's lead technical partner in developing and executing the universal social pension delivery system. In 2018, DSW and the General Administration Department (GAD) began delivering the pension to 40,700 people older than 90 years. In preparation for the national social pension delivery, the HAI project supported a cascading training plan that involved training of trainers (ToT) for 76 state and regional DSW officers. The project also supported the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) in securing a budget increase of MMK 16 billion (around USD 11.8 million) that brought the FY 2017-2018 budget for social pensions to MMK 28 billion (around USD 20.6 million). At the request of MSWRR, HAI and DSW developed costings for the government's social pension roll-out and held joint discussions with the Ministry of Planning and Finance's budget department to secure the required budget.

In 2017, MSWRR also focused on disability grants and replication of the older people self-help groups (OPSHG) – both flagship activities in the government's National Social

Protection Strategic Plan. To support MSWRR, the HAI project conducted a study on OPSHG replication, and collaborated on studies for the pilot of grants to people with disabilities in Mandalay and Magway Regions.

The first phase of HAI's Social Protection Policy project ended in July 2017 and was granted a costed extension to December 2018.

Supporting communities

HAI's project also implements projects at the community level. In 2017, the project was in its second year and activities had momentum. The project supported the priority activities proposed by 180 villages social protection committees (SPC) in their social protection action plans, disbursed emergency social protection funds to 141 villages and received and reviewed 74 proposals for income-generation ventures. The project also worked to build the capacity of SPC members. A highlight was the social care volunteer training delivered to young people to enable them to care for older people in their communities, an initiative greatly appreciated by the elderly people involved.

The government's nationwide social pension programme delivers pensions to people over 90 years. The HAI project continued to deliver pensions to people aged between 85 and 90 years. In 2017, 688 elderly people received social pensions from the HAI project. The disability grant started in January 2017 and during the year, 2,339 people with disabilities received the grant.

Another community-led, integrated social protection project implemented by Social Policy and Poverty Research Group generated good results. By the end of 2017, the project's investment of MMK 127 million (USD 94,000) in the social protection seed funds had grown by more than 30 per cent and MMK 46 million (USD 34,000) of social assistance was distributed to more than 3,000 beneficiaries. The project's endline survey showed that households needing loans to meet their food security needs fell from 22 per cent to 12 per cent. The project has a nutrition component delivering maternal and child cash transfers (MCCT) accompanied by social and behaviour change communication messaging on good nutrition. More than 2,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women had received cash transfers from the project by the end of 2017. Seventy per cent of households reported positive changes in the food they consumed. The positive impact of the MCCT programme strongly correlated with participation in community social protection groups.

5.4 Gender

In 2017, LIFT finalised revisions and launched the gender strategy, developed an action plan and established a gender unit within the fund management office (FMO). Each programme team appointed a gender focal point to function as a bridge between gender-related work in projects and LIFT's gender strategy.

In revising the gender strategy, LIFT refined its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and applied the UN definition of women's empowerment, which states that empowerment has five crucial factors:

1. Women's sense of self-worth
2. Women's right to have, and to determine, choices
3. Women's right to have access to opportunities and resources
4. Women's right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home
5. Women's ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally

LIFT continues to push for stronger integration and implementation of gender considerations in project management. Gender is one criteria FMO uses to evaluate proposals. Guidelines on gender-sensitive project formulation and planning were produced to guide applicants preparing proposals.

A checklist of minimum requirements was included in the gender strategy to guide partners on the integration of gender throughout the project cycle. The reporting formats have been enriched with more detailed guiding questions on gender equality and women's empowerment for partners to use when documenting and evaluating achievements and challenges related to gender in their projects. These questions will also provide data for LIFT's evaluation

and learning process at the end of the current programme phase.

The goals of empowering women and contributing to gender equality will be closely integrated into LIFT's programme design post-2018 and considered in all processes, structures and decisions.

At the end of 2017, the gender action plan was being reviewed by all programmes. It contains updated targets, indicators, a clear timeline and responsibilities for each programme to make monitoring more evident, and to plan activities focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment.

After launching the revised gender strategy the gender unit focused on strengthening capacities on gender within the FMO and in partner organisations. LIFT held a training on gender, gender mainstreaming and gender analysis for all partners. The evaluation of the training showed that most training participants gained a clear understanding of the concept of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the tools that can be applied for effectively mainstreaming gender in their projects. Most participants assessed their knowledge as having "increased a lot" on gender analysis, its purpose, methods and tools and said they had increased confidence to apply the knowledge in their work. LIFT's gender unit has offered partners technical support and one-on-one coaching to ensure that gender aspects are adequately considered in the planning and implementation of projects.

From counting numbers to making numbers count

In 2017, from its programmes and projects LIFT has learned:

- ‡ More gender barriers and opportunities to overcome them are being identified by LIFT's partners due to an improved focus on gender.
- ‡ Reflecting on gender-related stereotypes is essential to overcome gender barriers and engage in gender transformative development.
- ‡ Collecting sex-disaggregated data is an important first step, however it is not enough. An in-depth gender analysis is required to provide an understanding of embedded gender-related disadvantages and hidden opportunities.
- ‡ When a gender analysis has been conducted, project activities tend to be more tailored to the needs and interests of women and men and are more equitable in the distribution of benefits through the project.
- ‡ Being able to measure gender impacts is the basis for allowing equal participation and empowerment of women.
- ‡ Gender equality can only be reached in close cooperation with men and key decision-makers in the communities, such as village and religious leaders.
- ‡ Decision-making power in the household is correlated to ownership of assets,

particularly land, machines and other belongings, which are mostly held by men.

- | Women are increasingly becoming 'change makers' in LIFT-supported projects. Their knowledge and skills and, importantly, their role as caregivers for the next generation, gives them a powerful and crucial position in the households, communities and society.
- | When women are involved in high-level positions of influence, they have a positive effect of being role models and empowering other women.

Highlights

Delta Programme

In the Delta, Metta Development Foundation promotes farmer-managed schemes for inclusive growth and sustainable development. In 2017, Metta conducted train-the-trainer sessions on gender in their farmer field schools (FFS). It was identified that women have an immense repository of knowledge when it comes to food production, storage and conservation of seeds, as well as market demand, and that farmer field schools are improved by women's participation in decision-making processes. Metta has worked to involve women in developing farmer field schools' action plans and in seed producer workshops where varieties are selected for quality seed production.

Another successful approach to gender was undertaken in the MyFish project implemented by World Fish, GRET, PACT and the Department of Fisheries. The project has a gender strategy and consults with a gender specialist on capacity building, strategic advice and research that feeds into project planning and management. In 2017, a series of capacity building activities on gender in small-scale aquaculture were conducted with stakeholders and community members. Comprehensive data, disaggregated by gender, provided the basis for the implementation of the project's gender strategy. The research identified benefits of gender inclusive small-scale aquaculture and constraints such as social norms, traditional gender roles and the lack of access to services and resources for women. Steps to improve the integration of women in the sector were identified. For example, developing a post-harvest sector introducing technologies women learn to implement. The project documents and publishes women's success stories in small-scale aquaculture to show the positive impact of the project on the role and responsibilities of women and men in managing the small-scale aquaculture activities, as well as their control and decision-making power over resources.*

The Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development project implemented by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) found that although women sometimes hold key positions in community-based organisations and village development committees they are often not involved in decisions within their households. A barrier is that men tend to own

the family's assets and land and make decisions without consulting women.

GRET's Small Grants Fund Strengthening Civil Society in the Delta project includes a gender working group consisting of one representative from each township and the partner organisations' gender focal points. In 2018, GRET will organise a gender orientation training for civil society organisations (CSOs) in the project to ensure gender issues are considered appropriately in the implementation of the project and in the daily practices of the organisations.

PATH's project introducing fortified rice is an excellent and rare example of using findings from a gender analysis in the policy implication analysis on the National Rice Fortification Policy. PATH aims to ensure that the National Rice Fortification Policy be gender sensitive and contains a section that acknowledges the different impact policy options have on men's and women's economic livelihoods and nutrition.

Dry Zone programme

The LIFT-funded LEGACY project implemented by Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association (MNMA) and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) has begun to target men in social behaviour change communication sessions on nutrition and hygiene to improve their understanding of the importance of good nutrition for mothers and children in the critical first 1,000 days.

The International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)'s project works to include Department of Agriculture (DoA) staff in farmer field days and demonstration of good agriculture practice. In 2017, DoA attended more than 2,200 project-related activities, which is an increase of 90 per cent since the work began in 2016. Around 44 per cent of the DoA participants are women. Since the beginning of the project 4,631 women have participated in the farmer training and received small voucher payments to invest in their farm businesses. In 2017, 14 female retailers received business enhancement grants totalling USD 112,500.

Rakhine Programme

In Rakhine, women's mobility is restricted more than men's, which limits women's choices related to training and work opportunities. Women traditionally are involved in livelihoods they can do at home, like weaving. Land is traditionally owned by men.

The project on Vocational Training and Livelihoods Opportunities for In-camp and Out-of-camp Youth in Rakhine State implemented by NRC/DRC provides trainings to young internally displaced persons (IDPs). A gender analysis helped create greater awareness on gender issues and how to integrate enhanced gender sensitivity in the project. However, implementing gender equality recommendations is challenging due to the deeply entrenched traditional and social norms. One lesson learned was that female trainers were more effective in reaching female trainees, particularly in

*Publication found here: http://pubs.iclarm.net/resource_centre/FISH-2017-12.pdf.

Muslim communities. When female trainers were introduced project activities were better accepted by the communities and more women could participate.

CARE's project Supporting the Food Security, Resilience and Social Cohesion of Households and Communities in Rathedaung Township conducted a gender equity and diversity training with its project staff; most of them male. Trainees learned to develop strategies and approaches to enhance equitable benefits for women and men through the project. A promising approach is to target women as individuals with training that increases their technical skills and decision-making abilities, which helps them strengthen their decision-making roles within their households. Fostering women's empowerment through community associations, such as the voluntary savings and loan associations (VSLA), which were previously seen as male groups, has lifted women's participation up to the communal or structural level and enables them to become change makers, as reported by the women themselves.

Tat Lan, involves men in its social and behaviour change communication sessions (SBCC) on nutrition. Men learn about pregnancy, reproductive health, good nutrition and personal hygiene. The project also monitors female-male participation in village development committees. At the end of 2017, 30 per cent of village development committee members were women. Although women participate in committee meetings regularly and can voice their views, a survey by the project showed that only 25 per cent of these women felt views were being considered by other committee members. The project plans to address women's empowerment and their participation in the village development committees through a new component.

Uplands Programme

LIFT-supported projects in the Upland regions are increasingly integrating gender into their activities. In 2017, several gender-related challenges were encountered. For example, in the Plan Bee project implemented by **Tag International Development** and **Parami Development Network**, gender-based mobility restrictions have been impeding women from migrating along with the natural migration season of the bees. The project has consistently attempted to improve women's involvement. For example, the project has encouraged women to travel with family members and developed income-generating activities women can do at home, like transforming by-products into candles and balms.

The Uplands Township Fund implemented by **Swissaid**, **GRET** and **Metta Development Foundation** applies gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle. A situation analysis at the beginning leads to gender-sensitive planning for the projects' implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the

projects from a gender perspective. To address gender-related discrimination, projects were developed that target women's empowerment, leadership and livelihoods.

The **CDN**-led project on Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor in Northern Kayin State identified several effective approaches to increasing women's access to, and control over, resources provided in the project, and lead to greater participation of women in village development activities. The project has established small groups around a specific purpose where women learn technical skills. Participating in smaller groups helps build women's confidence as they support each other to learn decision-making skills. CDN ensures that women are involved in all activities and encourages them to have a voice in mixed gender groups where men would traditionally dominate.

In 2017, the **Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development's** (MMID) Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State project conducted a mapping and capacity assessment of women's organisations in Hakha township to identify existing resources working on gender equality and women's empowerment. The women's organisations identified will support the implementation of the project's gender strategy in a culturally-embedded way. The project works to challenge male perceptions on gender stereotypes and to increase women's roles as decision-makers from the individual level to the policy level.

Civil Society and Strategic Partnerships Programme

The **Gender Equality Network** (GEN) is one of LIFT's strategic partners and dedicated to gender equality and women's economic empowerment. GEN focuses on achieving gender equality in governance and public life through advocacy and increasing opportunities for women to participate in all sectors of governance. In 2017, GEN continued to provide evidence-based technical advice to the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, a high-level interministerial commission. During the CSO Forum for the 21st Century Panglong Conference GEN advocated for enhancing gender equality in CSOs and their work. GEN has been a strong advocate for the passage of the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Law (PoVAW). In November 2017, GEN published its research on the gender impacts in the 2015 elections.⁹⁶ GEN also continued its work on building awareness of gender-based violence, discriminatory social practices and cultural norms in Myanmar.

Financial Inclusion

In 2017, LIFT's conducted a qualitative study on women's empowerment through microfinance. Findings were nuanced. Women who were microfinance clients showed an increased

sense of self-worth and self-confidence, and their income gains improved their status in their households. They became more mobile as they pursued their business interests. But, their participation as decision-makers had changed little. Women had more access to, and control over assets, but their ownership of assets had not changed and was still well below men's.

Land

LIFT's strategic partner **Land Core Group** (LCG) recruited a team of researchers to understand how gender and land interact in different regions of Myanmar. The team conducted 24 in-depth interviews with local authorities and 393 household surveys in four villages in Dawei, Kawkaik and Kalay. The preliminary results were presented to LCG partners in August, 2017.

In terms of gendered division of labor, while women tend to be in charge of childcare, the household, home gardens, and selling at market, women and men's roles and work vary due to age, marital status and local norms. Gender alone is not sufficient to understand the way tasks are shared within the household. More men own land than women and the study found variations in inheritance patterns across the areas researched; some were dominated by male inheritance, some by female inheritance, and others with a gender balance. Both men and women do go to the village head to solve land issues, but men are consistently more confident going to higher authorities than women. Women reported government offices were 'male spaces', and off-limits to women.

Migration

The Migration Programme's Twe Let project offers vocational training to people intending to migrate. Gender stereotypes were first encountered when training streams were designated as 'for men' (e.g. welding) or 'for women' (e.g. garment sewing). The project managed to interest a small number of women to enrol in 'male' courses. These women have contributed to changing the gender-biased perception among their communities of what is acceptable for women and men, and has provided a chance for young female students to take advantage of the same opportunities their male peers have. The project has used a baseline gender analysis to plan the project and formulate gender sensitive targets and approaches that lead to gender-equitable outcomes.

The Aung Myin Hmu project implemented by **CARE International** is addressing gender-based violence in communities and sexual harassment in the workplace. The project is working with garment industry leaders to develop an international-standard workplace sexual harassment package. CARE will mentor staff in factories on implementing workplace policies and procedures to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.

The LIFT-funded project implemented by **EDEN** supports victims of human trafficking

in Yangon. The project is implementing outreach programs at major trafficking hubs in Yangon and responds to trafficked women in need of support with trauma-based cognitive behavioural therapy to restore their confidence and strength. In 2017, the project established another safe shelter where around 30 women can find protection and support. EDEN also provides job matching services and vocational training for trafficked and vulnerable women.









6.0

Policy Engagement

- | Scale-up integrated nutrition interventions
- | Undertake investment planning and resource mobilisation
- | Conduct a national nutrition and food security survey in 2017
- | Organise a national nutrition seminar

6.1

Nutrition Interministerial nutrition policy

In January 2017, Myanmar's State Counsellor visited a LIFT-supported maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) project in Kyee village in Pakokku Township and then convened the first national coordination meeting on nutrition. Five union-level ministers, six donor countries, six UN agencies, the World Bank and non-government agencies discussed how nutrition issues could be tackled with a more coordinated approach across sectors and at a national level. An interministerial coordination body was established under the direction of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), involving the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI); Education (MoE); Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR), and Religious Affairs and Culture (MoRAC).

Progress in the first half of 2017 towards establishing a multi-sector coordination body for nutrition was slow. Later in the year, the government's Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) created 10 sector coordination groups in policy priority areas and this initiative breathed new life into the process. The DACU initiative coincided with the World Bank's announcement of a significant investment commitment for nutrition in Myanmar. The World Bank's involvement in the nutrition sector is expected to help strengthen policy coordination.

In the second half of the year, key stakeholders agreed to form a National Nutrition Sector Coordination Committee (NNSCC) chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Sports. A Nutrition Promotion Working Committee will be formed under this framework and chaired by the Department of Public Health's Director General with the involvement of development partners, donors, private sector and other related ministries. The NNSCC will provide guidance and inputs to state and regional nutrition promotion committees, which will be chaired by the respective state and region chief ministers.

Actions identified include:

- | Establish nutrition sector coordination groups at national, state and regional levels
- | Revise and develop the National Nutrition Policy and National Nutritional Action Plan (2017-2021)
- | Develop a national advocacy strategy for nutrition

Multi-Sector National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN)

The development of the Strategic Framework for Myanmar Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018-2022 began in January 2017 and one year later the final draft was submitted to the Minister for Health and Sports for approval. The process was led by the Department of Public Health's National Nutrition Centre and involved four ministries who contributed to developing a collaborative, synergistic results framework and action plan across sectors. There are six key results areas, one for each of the four key sectors of health, social welfare, education, and agriculture, as well as governance and monitoring and evaluation, which are designed to contribute to the overall goal of reducing malnutrition among mothers, children and adolescent girls. LIFT has played an active role in supporting the plan's development and will focus on the development of an operational costed plan as the process moves into the second phase in the first half of 2018.

Nutrition programming with government in Chin State

In 2017, LIFT expanded its nutrition portfolio with significant investments in a maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) programme in Chin State that is implemented by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). There are three components to the programme: cash transfers, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), and institutional capacity building. Details of the programme are presented in Chapter 3.4 of this report.

LIFT and UNICEF encouraged DSW to convene an interministerial SBCC committee. It first met at the end of April with representatives from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Health Literacy Promotion Unit (HLPU) and the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS)'s National Nutrition Center (NNC), UNICEF, Save the Children, 3MDG and LIFT. During the first meeting DSW presented its plans for nutrition education, to accompany cash transfers to pregnant and breastfeeding women in Chin State. It was agreed that the HLPU would lead the process of developing education and SBCC materials and that would be done in a smaller, technically-oriented group. It was decided that newly developed material related to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices would be used for nutrition education in the short term; but that a broader, contextualised SBCC strategy was needed.

The establishment of the SBCC committee

represents an important step forward in terms of promoting better interministerial coordination in the implementation of MCCT programming. A shared sense of ownership over nutrition and SBCC messaging along with active collaboration between DSW and the MoHS are important for the sustainability of MCCT programming in Myanmar. LIFT and 3MDG are collaborating to provide further support on the integration of cash transfers and SBCC components.

The World Bank is considering a significant level of investment in support of nutrition, including MCCT programming. LIFT hosted visits and shared learnings from its MCCT experiences in Rakhine, the Delta, the Dry Zone, and Chin State with the World Bank. The bank's interest in nutrition is an important opportunity for the government to scale up MCCT programming in other states and regions of Myanmar and promote and support more active collaboration between DSW and the MoHS. A further positive development is the HLPU's interest in developing a national SBCC strategy.

Promoting Fortified Rice

In 2017, LIFT's partner PATH contributed to creating a favourable policy environment for the promotion of fortified rice. The Minister for Health and Sports expressed interest in the draft National Rice Fortification Policy. PATH, in conjunction with the Nutrition Development Initiative (NUDI) and other stakeholder groups, completed a landscape analysis to support policy makers. Their analysis will assist the Rice Fortification Working Group (RFWG) recommend the most appropriate delivery options for rice fortification. In the second half of 2017, PATH collaborated with the Evans School of Public Policy at the University of Washington to conduct a comprehensive policy implication analysis of the National Rice Fortification Policy. The analysis will consist of a cost-benefit analysis, a policy options analysis, and an in-depth examination of the policy, administrative and regulatory requirements.

PATH also conducted a study visit to India with the National Nutrition Centre (NNC), drawing on its international experience in contributing to favourable policy environments for fortified rice. PATH has been involved in the development of the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018–2022, which refers to fortified rice as an effective intervention. The PATH team also successfully advocated for the introduction and scale-up of rice fortification in Myanmar with the Food Drug Administration (FDA), members of Parliament (Hluttaw), the Department of Social Welfare, and the regional governments of Ayeyarwady, Patheingyi, and Rakhine regions.

SUN Civil Society Alliance Support for Nutrition Policy Advocacy

The SUN Civil Society Alliance (CSA), in collaboration with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Myanmar Multi-Stakeholder Platform (M-MSP), engaged in three major national policy and advocacy initiatives in 2017. In early 2017, the SUN CSA Secretariat, housed in Save the Children as part of the Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) project and funded by LIFT, supported the UN REACH-led national nutrition stocktaking exercise, which is designed to create an evidence-base for the government to make nutrition-related policy decisions. The CSA gathered data from its members on what nutrition activities are being implemented in which townships.

Later in the year, the SUN CSA collaborated with stakeholders to support the development of the national Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) at the request of the M-MSP. Save the Children's LEARN Project and SUN-CSA managers served as technical facilitators to support MoALI and MSWRR in drafting sectoral nutrition-sensitive logframes, to be incorporated into plan's strategic framework. The National Nutrition Center will submit the strategic framework to the Development Assistant Coordination Unit (DACU) chaired by the State Counsellor through MoHS in January 2018.

LEARN and the SUN CSA also supported the government in its efforts to make Myanmar 'breastfeeding friendly'. The Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly (BBF) Initiative has been piloted in Mexico and Ghana, and further pilots are underway in Germany, Samoa and Great Britain. The BBF methodology, developed by researchers at Yale University, enables countries to assess their readiness to scale up breastfeeding protection, promotion and support. Nutrition stakeholders in Myanmar endorsed the NNC and the CSA Secretariat to co-lead on the BBF Initiative. The NNC's Director and the SUN CSA Nutrition Advocacy Advisor served as co-principal investigators and will develop a report, based on findings of a committee of national-level experts, outlining recommendations on Myanmar's opportunities for scale-up.

In 2017, the SUN CSA released a report, which compiled violations of a national law which prevents unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes in order to protect breastfeeding. The report was sent to the NNC, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and UNICEF, who are the members of the technical working group that is responsible for implementing the law and supporting its enforcement by the FDA.

LIFT Technical Capacities

As the nutrition policy agenda at union and sub-national levels continued to gain momentum, LIFT worked to increase its

technical capacity on nutrition to play a role commensurate with its policy objectives and investments on maternal and child nutrition. Joint efforts of LIFT and 3MDG to recruit an international nutrition policy expert were not successful in the first half of 2017. However, a joint effort to recruit international nutrition retainers later in the year was and the retainers will begin working with LIFT and 3MDG in early 2018. LIFT also recruited a national nutrition specialist who will be available in mid-2018 to help support policy engagement with government and other development partners.

6.2

Agriculture

LIFT has continued to strengthen its policy engagement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI) in the areas of policy research, strategic planning and investment.

Agriculture Policy Unit

LIFT supports the development of the Agriculture Policy Unit through its Agrifood Value Chain Development (AVCD) project implemented by Michigan State University (MSU), CESD (Centre for Economic & Social Development), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). AVCD is jointly implemented with the Food Security Policy Project funded by USAID.

The APU was established in early 2017 and currently sits in MoALI's Department of Planning's Monitoring and Evaluation Division. The MSU team leader is one of two international advisors working with the APU, along with 12 national staff assigned from different departments from within MoALI.

The APU's mission is to support MoALI's leadership in decision making through objective analysis of alternative policy and strategy options, taking account of international experience, accurate information of the local context, and the perspectives of MoALI's diverse stakeholders that include farmers, agribusinesses, consumers, elected officials, civil society and development partners.

In early 2017, MoALI's Permanent Secretary requested the APU to conduct an analysis of research and extension reforms to identify potential productivity gains in agriculture. A research task force was formed in January and completed its initial assessment by the end of May. The task force was supported by MoALI and the Department of Planning (DoP)'s Director General and examined research on the adoption of a decentralised farmer-oriented research planning system as an alternative to the current centralised and crop-focused planning system.

The APU also supported the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) consultation process that took place in all states and regions. This included training for APU/DoP and MoALI staff in conducting consultation exercises. An important outcome of this

process was the consolidation of the land component in the ADS draft. The APU also provided 'on-the-job' capacity building for MoALI's senior and medium-level management teams on converting the ADS proposal into practical actions.

In 2017, the APU also provided capacity building support to MoALI staff for the design of the Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP) proposal. The training helped staff conceptualise investment programming with links between food security, nutrition, and land management. An important result of this work is the inclusion of a land component and nutrition-sensitive interventions in the GAFSP proposal.

The APU has also played an important role in laying the foundations for establishing future partnerships between MoALI/DoP and CSOs for implementing MoALI's priority activities in the land sector, such as the reclamation and allocation of unused land.

The APU helped build capacity in other innovative ways. The APU helped the DoP develop a concept note on reclaiming unused land for possible re-allocation to landless and rural poor households. MoALI submitted the concept note to LIFT along with its request for financial support for a land reclamation project. This exercise was used as a learning exercise for MoALI/DoP/APU staff to better understand the challenges and opportunities of these processes in implementing the Government's strategy.

The APU also supported the drafting of a position note on MoALI's possible role in the development and implementation of a national nutrition strategy. This process represented yet another opportunity for on-the-job capacity building for MoALI staff on linkages between nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and land management, including land tenure security of different agrarian production systems.

Agrifood Value Chain Development (AVCD) in Myanmar

The AVCD project, funded by LIFT and implemented by Michigan State University (MSU), is a study of agrifood value chain development in Myanmar. It has four components:

1. Strategy and policy advice
2. Agriculture food chains
3. Household and community livelihoods
4. Capacity development and network building

On strategy and policy advice, AVCD supports the APU to undertake high priority studies that facilitate the formulation and implementation of specific policies and strategies under each of the three ADS pillars of governance, productivity and competitiveness. AVCD also provide formal and in-service training to APU and other MoALI staff involved in policy development, implementation, or monitoring and evaluation. Formal undergraduate and graduate

training is conducted in collaboration with Yezin Agricultural University.

In the first half of 2017, the project's main activity on agriculture food chains was the Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone Survey (READZ). The survey established baseline data on agriculture production practices, value chains, and the characteristics of the rural economy in the Dry Zone as a basis for identifying entry points for improving smallholder productivity, profitability and market participation. A particular focus of the survey is on understanding the role of irrigation in supporting farm productivity and profitability.

On household and community livelihoods AVCD conducted the Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey (MAAS) that was published as a report and policy brief⁹⁷ in 2017.

In 2017, the project continued to work with the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CSED) to build staff's capacity to implement, analyse and disseminate results of value chain research through continuous on-the-job training. The CSED team includes a new generation of staff from an expanded stable of researchers and interns.

Capacity building collaboration with MoALI was strengthened with the establishment of a 12-member agricultural policy unit who participated in several policy analysis trainings in 2017. In November, the project conducted a policy analysis course jointly with Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) and MoALI's Department of Planning for 30 participants from MoALI, YAU and LIFT. Divided into two phases, the course is intended to equip participants to support policy reform processes for the new Agricultural Development Strategy. The course content includes economic foundations of policy analysis, MoALI agricultural policy and agricultural development strategy, policy process, and specific subsector policy areas such as rice, irrigation, land, seed and nutrition. The second phase of the course is planned for March 2018.

Agriculture Development Strategy

Myanmar's new agricultural policy aims "to improve food and nutrition security and food safety for all the people and to enable smallholder farmers to increase their incomes through higher productivity and diversified production in response to market demand, as well as to enhance exports through an internationally competitive private agribusiness sector" (MoALI, 2016).

The Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) has been designed to guide the implementation of the new agricultural policy. It is organised around three mutually-supportive pillars: 1) governance, 2) productivity, and 3) market linkages and competitiveness. The ADS addresses the following needs:

- | Consolidation and integration of plans, strategies, roadmaps, and approaches developed by stakeholders

- | A systematic approach to operationalise agricultural policy implementation
- | Coordinate activities, projects, programs, and policies
- | Build a dialogue with domestic and foreign investors and harmonise foreign aid to the sector

A team of national and international consultants mobilised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and LIFT have worked in collaboration and under the guidance of MoALI to help formulate the ADS since September 2016. The original intent of the ADS was to meet a policy requirement for the GAFSP proposal process. Early in the process LIFT engaged two national consultants to work closely with the ADB and FAO teams. The teams consulted broadly with MoALI, other government agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector throughout the development of the strategy.

In 2017, LIFT helped extend the consultation process to the states and regions by renewing the contracts of the two national consultants. The aim of the sub-national consultations was to ensure that the ADS process incorporated the views of a broad range of stakeholders and was aligned with local agricultural plans. The consultations were convened in each of Myanmar's 17 state and regions through a collaboration between MoALI and two of LIFT's strategic partners, the Land Core Group (LCG) and the Food Security Working Group (FSWG). The consultation process was the first national consultation process undertaken by MoALI.

The next step in the ADS process was the development of an investment plan to accompany the strategy. The investment plan was completed in 2017 and identified priority areas for investment by government and development partners, potential funding sources and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. The plan will be modified as new information is collected through monitoring and evaluation and as the policy debates evolves. MoALI and the Department of Planning will maintain and update the database containing the calculation tables used for the compilation of the investment plan.

The Union Minister for MoALI has shown keen interest in and support for the ADS. The consulting team produced an executive briefing document for distribution at the World Food Day in mid-October. Since then, the ADS was translated into Myanmar language and went through several drafts involving peer review by international and national reviewers. In early 2018, the final drafts of both the English and Myanmar languages versions were prepared for submission to the National Economic Committee for review and official endorsement. MoALI aims to launch the ADS and investment plan in April 2018.

⁹⁷ <https://www.lift-fund.org/aquaculture-myanmar-fish-farm-technology-production-economics-and-management-highlights-enmm>

Once government endorses the strategy, the next set of challenges will be to establish the institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring. In addition to the technical challenges associated with implementation and monitoring the strategy, another important challenge will be to encourage and support government ownership over the ADS process.

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

In 2016, LIFT, the ADB and FAO provided technical assistance to MoALI to develop a proposal for GAFSP funding. In March 2017, the Myanmar government was awarded a USD 27 million grant from GAFSP. Since then, the GAFSP grant has become a component of the ADB's Climate Friendly Agribusiness Sector Project (CFA). A technical cooperation mission between the ADB/FAO/LIFT GAFSP team and ADB's CFA project design team was completed in July 2017 with a follow-up mission in November 2017. Expectations are that the CFA/GAFSP will be submitted to ADB's board for approval in mid-2018 after it is approved by government.

Agriculture Public Expenditure Review

The World Bank, with LIFT's support, released the Agriculture Public Expenditure Review report in June 2017. It focuses on increasing the impact of public spending on agricultural growth in Myanmar. It assesses effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural public expenditures over the period of 2009/10-2016/17, identifies weaknesses and strengths of public programmes managed by MoALI, takes stock of donor projects, and presents options for leveraging public spending and donor funds to accelerate agricultural growth and reduce poverty in Myanmar. In addition to generating knowledge on these topics, the report provides a baseline for the ADS investment plan of MoALI's Agricultural Development Strategy. The first dissemination of the report took place in August in Nay Pyi Taw. The report was presented at two events to more than 150 participants, representing MoALI and MoPF, the parliament, donors, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders.

The World Bank's report Agricultural Transformation is under preparation. It aims to shed light on the transformation in the agricultural sector of Myanmar in recent times. This work builds on the 2016 Analysis of Farm Production Economics in Myanmar report, prepared jointly by LIFT and the World Bank using the primary data collected from about 1,300 farms in Ayeyarwady, Bago, Sagaing and Shan State in 2013/14. The new report will study changes in farming practices and production outcomes over the period of 2013-2018, assess driving forces behind these changes, investigate dynamics of farming systems, and shed light on the economy of rice and other crops looking beyond farm level. Primary data collection for

the report began in November 2017 for the monsoon season and will continue in April-June 2018 for the cool and dry seasons. The report will be finalised by March 2019.

6.3

Land Tenure National Land Use Policy/ National Land Use Council

In November 2016, the Parliamentary Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues asked the government to review the National Land Use Policy (NLUP), claiming it was redundant and recommending the removal of a number of key provisions related to customary tenure and gender, among others. This approach slowed progress on further development and implementation of the NLUP until the formation of a National Land Use Council in January 2018. The NLUC was formed in order to implement the objectives, guiding principles and basic principles for the approved National Land Use Policy as well as develop and harmonise new laws related to land. LIFT's strategic partner Land Core Group (LCG), with EU-FAO FIRST, the World Bank, and other development partners played an important role in promoting this important policy achievement, which suggests the Government of Myanmar is prepared to further engage in land policy reform.

The creation of a National Land Use Council is likely to have a major impact on future land reform efforts in Myanmar, including the formulation of a national land law. However, there are several provisions that will require clarification. For example, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) was assigned both the secretary and vice-secretary positions under the chairmanship of Myanmar's second Vice President, while MoALI is included as a member at a level similar to other ministries. This does not appear to reflect the important role that MoALI plays in administering all farmland, and may result in a less balanced and transparent participation in the NLUP process. A challenge going forward will be to encourage MoALI to genuinely participate in the NLUP process, and enable MoNREC to provide sufficient space for MoALI to do so.

Farmland Law

Amendments to the Farmland Law and the Forest Law were submitted to parliament for consideration during 2017. Local civil society organisations and INGOs working on land governance issues have worked on the Farmland Law amendments. LCG worked closely with the parliamentary Farmers Affairs Committee and observed that the amendments were insufficient in terms of improving land governance, and began advocating for turning the amendments into a major legal reform and to undertake an extensive public consultation process. LCG hired two legal experts to

* The report can be accessed at <http://www.lift-fund.org/myanmar-agricultural-public-expenditure-review>.

develop recommendations for reform of the law. They were formally submitted to MoALI and various parliamentary committees in May, 2017. When the amendments were released, LCG translated and published them on the Myanmar Land, Agribusiness and Forestry Forum and convened workshops for discussion of the amendments. LCG with other CSOs, INGOs and NGOs lobbied parliamentarians for changes to the amendments. It was agreed that the bill would include shifting cultivation as a legitimate agriculture practice in the definitions of the revised law. The upper house of parliament passed a draft Farmland Law with amendments and it has been submitted to the lower house and will be debated in 2018.

In 2017, LCG worked with MoNREC to develop a process to review the Forest Law and policy with the government's Forestry Department and MoNREC. LCG has been attempting to get key wording around community-managed forests into the law's amendments.

Land Acquisition Act (LAA)

A Special Commission has been working with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Myanmar's military to develop a new law for land acquisition. Previously, parliamentarians were tasked with revising land acquisition laws dating back to 1894. There was confusion about these two processes. Parliamentarians complained and submitted their new draft to parliament in November 2017. LCG translated the draft into English and coordinated awareness raising with other CSOs. LCG also requested an independent review of the law by ADB safeguard experts to assist the government and stakeholders to undertake further revision. The main issue with this law remains the definition of 'public purpose'.

LIFT's partner GRET's research indicates that frequently the main motives for land confiscation, done in the name of urban extension, are speculative and the confiscated areas exceed actual needs. This leads to land sitting idle for long periods, and previous landowners and others start using the land informally, adding another layer of complexity to the issue.

Other land policy actions of 2017:

- ‡ After being endorsed in December 2016, the new Second Short Term Five Year Agriculture Policies and Strategic Thrusts agriculture policy was released to the public. The policy contains important statements relating to land governance and tenure rights in the agriculture sector, and makes direct reference to the NLUP.
- ‡ A new Land Registration Law, intended to replace the existing Registration Act of 1908 was submitted to parliament for consideration. The law could form the foundation for developing rules and guidelines for a more modern title

registration system.

- ‡ The upper house of parliament passed a draft amended Vacant Fallow Virgin Land Law, which was submitted to the lower house and will be further debated in 2018.
- ‡ MoALI's DoP/APU organised four three-day interministerial policy dialogues in Nay Pyi Taw and in Mandalay, Bago and Mon State to discuss linkages between food security, nutrition and land tenure. Policy dialogue laid the foundation for MoALI to better identify its contributions to the MS-NPAN. Increased diversification of food production at the local level and implementing a food-basket strategy as reflected in the ADS is a major policy direction. It was, however, concluded that such a diversification policy must be underpinned by an enabling land tenure framework. The current land tenure legislation is a tool to promote a 'rice bowl' policy and discourages the promotion of non-rice based production systems.

Engagement with government on land re-allocation

In 2016, LIFT had several discussions with government officials, MoALI, National League for Democracy representatives and the Ayeyarwady regional government regarding possible support for a government land allocation programme. In April 2017, LIFT agreed to a project amendment with Welthungerhilfe that expanded their project's financial and extension services to farmers in Pyapon Township who had received land from the government. LIFT also approved a project extension to GRET for their current land research project that includes assessments of potential land allocation sites by the government. This initiative responds to two official written requests to LIFT from the Ayeyarwady and Bago regional governments, and more recent discussions between Landesa and the Mandalay regional government, for independent assessments of potential sites for land allocations to landless households. Six assessments and 11 pre-assessments have been conducted in the Ayeyarwady and Mandalay regions. The results have been shared with local government and MPs at township level.

In May 2017, MoALI representatives on LIFT's Fund Board presented the ministry's priorities and areas of partnership with LIFT. The land sector was identified as the highest priority. MoALI's Department of Planning DoP submitted a concept note to LIFT requesting support for the reclamation of unused concessions related to the Vacant Fallow Virgin Land law and their re-allocation to smallholder farmers. Later in 2017, LIFT requested GRET to conduct some exploratory assessments in Magway and Sagaing Regions to survey possible sites

for such programming. The results of the assessment in Magway were discussed with MoALI and it was agreed to focus the initial phase of the future programme on the concessions in Minhla Township. LIFT engaged a consulting team to work with MoALI to design the basic components of a land reclamation pilot programme in Magway Region. The idea is that LIFT will contract a firm with management experience in land tenure and administration to support and facilitate MoALI's implementation of the programme. The actual day-to-day implementation is likely to be headed by the Magway regional government.

Land Research

In early 2017, GRET published their research Land and Natural Resources Use in Hakha Peri-urban Areas and presented it at a workshop in Hakha. GRET conducted a quantitative survey in peri-urban Yangon and Mandalay and a first draft of the main findings, including a first typology of landless and landowners households, was produced in 2017. The initial research report on the Dry Zone and Delta was edited and produced as a comprehensive book Land tenure in rural lowland Myanmar: From historical perspectives to contemporary realities in the Dry Zone and the Delta⁹⁸ published in October 2017. This book is an important knowledge product for all scholars and policy makers interested in understanding how land-related regulations have interacted with local, informal practices on the ground to shape access to land in rural areas.

6.4

Mechanisation private public partnership

In 2017, LIFT and Yoma Bank partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI)'s Agriculture Mechanization Department (AMD) in support of the government's Tractor Referral Programme. This public private partnership between agricultural equipment dealers and the government aims to stimulate farm mechanisation. LIFT and Yoma Bank are providing finance through the Agribusiness Finance Programme. Applications for loans are made through the AMD's network of 120 stations nationwide and if considered eligible they are then referred to a partner equipment dealer. Finance is provided as a three-year loan with semi-annual instalments and a 10 per cent down payment. By the end of 2017, 558 four-wheel tractors had been financed at a value of USD 10.4 million.

6.5

LIFT Technical Assistance to the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

In 2017, LIFT maintained its technical assistance support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's Department of Rural Development (DRD) at the union and township level. LIFT's 24-member team is based in Nay Pyi Taw and helps strengthen the capacity of DRD and township planning committee's capacity to achieve two objectives. The first objective is to develop a medium-term, socio-economic development framework that identifies and prioritises community-driven investment schemes for village development. The second longer-term objective involves strengthening institutions and their processes for integrating village development plans and investment programmes in township development programme budgets.

LIFT's team has been working with DRD since 2014 on development planning, investment programming, and the implementation of community-driven small village infrastructure schemes and livelihood activities. More than 7,200 villages have been reached in 49 of the country's 298 rural townships, which is about 11 per cent of all rural villages.

Almost 400 DRD officers, primarily at the township level, have been trained in development planning and organising community-driven activities. These officers have in turn trained more than 14,510 village-based planners on village development planning processes. The planners are trained to collect and tabulate data that is used to develop medium-term plans for investments in village development.

The village development programme's instruments that translate medium-term development plans into actionable programmes with annual budget allocations are now mainstreamed in the DRD. USD 21.7 million of state resources has been allocated for village development planning over four years demonstrating the government's commitment to this approach to local socio-economic development. Of the total funds committed to the programme, LIFT has contributed 16 per cent and DRD 84 per cent.

Going forward, the government needs to address challenges related to policy and institutional mechanisms for planning and budgeting at the township and local level.

While planning and budgeting at the township level is the responsibility of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, DRD took the initiative to develop a methodology and technical tools for implementing a participatory-based township rural development strategy development by leveraging the village development planning work. Participatory-based township development strategy processes were implemented in 12 pilot townships in 2017.

98 www.lift-fund.org/land-tenure-rural-low-land-myanmar-historical-perspectives-contemporary-realities-dry-zone-and-delta

Further institutionalisation of participatory township development planning and budgeting will require union government policy and programme coordination between the Ministry of Planning and Finance's Department of Planning and the involvement of the General Administrative Department. LIFT will explore opportunities to engage in policy dialogue with these government institutions to help develop more precise policy directions for local development planning and budgeting.









7.0

Value for Money

Maximising the impact of each dollar spent improving rural poor people's lives is important to LIFT and its donors. In 2016, LIFT developed a value for money (VfM) framework and a set of guidelines that details the criteria, measures and metrics that LIFT, its donors and implementing partners use to analyse programmes' and projects' economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity.

7.1

VfM throughout LIFT's programme and project lifecycles⁹⁹

LIFT follows specific procedures to evaluate value for money throughout programmes' and projects' lifecycles – during design, mobilisation, delivery and closure stages.

Design

At the design stage, LIFT's Fund Management Office (FMO) addresses VfM in the calls for proposals (CfP), in the process and criteria used to assess proposals, and in the proposal appraisals information and recommendations presented to the Fund Board.

Calls for Proposals

LIFT selects its implementing partners through transparent and competitive processes, with the majority of its funding allocated through open calls for proposals. The ways in which LIFT addresses VfM in its CfPs has evolved and become more specific over time. For example, the March, 2015 CfP for the Delta 3 programme did not include specific VfM questions; although VfM considerations were mainstreamed throughout the CfP. Later in 2015, the Dry Zone and the Uplands CfPs included more explicit VfM-related questions. Nevertheless, most LIFT CfPs requested that the following information be included, from which VfM assessments could be conducted:

- | A theory of change with an aligned and well-structured implementation plan, measurement framework, and budget
- | Clear articulation of type, number, and locations of beneficiaries
- | Description of management procedures and procurement arrangements
- | Alternative design options

Although not required in the CfPs, several proposals also included VfM calculations. MercyCorps Linking Labutta to Markets proposal presented return on investment projections based on previous interventions, Welthungerhilfe's Support to Rice Seed Sector Development proposal included cost-benefit ratios on rice seed and grain production over five years, and

World Fish estimated the value of gross margin for each system and additional production for the aquaculture technologies proposed.

Appraisal criteria

Regional and thematic programme managers appraised project proposals using the following VfM-related criteria:

- | Contribution of proposed project to LIFT's strategy and the programme's ToC
- | Alignment of ToC, implementation plan, measurement framework, and budget, and feasibility of delivering promised results
- | Reasonableness and justification of costs
- | Cost per beneficiary
- | Staffing structure
- | Proposed procurement procedures
- | Areas where further savings may be made and options for achieving greater value for money
- | Possible multiplier effects and/or additional benefits from replication or scaling-up
- | Possibility of leveraging additional funds

Programme managers also applied VfM considerations during contract negotiations. Some projects were requested to revise their project plans and budgets to further maximise their economy, efficiency, effectiveness and, more recently, equity. For example, some projects were asked to develop a stronger business case, leverage more funds, and strengthen their evidence-building efforts by including more economic indicators and targets.

Mobilisation

At the project mobilisation or inception phase, achieving VfM means constraining costs, given the quality and quantity of activity and outputs, through shrewd procurement, and the finalisation of work plans and monitoring and evaluation plans.

Procurement processes

LIFT requires all of its projects to follow stringent budgeting, procurement and expenditure procedures to justify and control costs. Procedures include requiring a breakdown and detailed justifications of costs such as salaries and travel, and then comparing these costs across projects and with market prices in Myanmar. By doing so, projects' cost drivers are controlled first at the project level and then overseen by FMO at the programme level.

As stated in LIFT's Operational Guidelines, the FMO and implementing partners comply with UNOPS's procurement regulations based on principles of public procurement, which include:

- | Best value for money
- | Fairness, integrity and transparency, including standard procurement documentation
- | Effective competition
- | In the best interests of organisational objectives, which in the case of LIFT and its partners is that procurement adds value the fulfilment of goals and objectives
- | Sustainable procurement

⁹⁹ Adapted from the Department for International Development, VfM Guidance: Agriculture. June, 2017.

In 2017, UNOPS Myanmar developed a Programme Management Office that consolidates human resources, information and communication technology, safety and security, administrative, procurement, management and oversight, and finance services across the four funds it manages, their programmes and projects. This allows UNOPS to implement more efficient and unified work processes, quality assurance, and transparency across its programmes, as well as better staff development and knowledge sharing, ultimately creating greater value for money.

Work plans and monitoring and evaluation for accountability and learning (MEAL) plans

During a project's inception phase, implementing partners develop detailed work plans and MEAL plans. Both these documents are important tools for managing projects and maximizing VfM throughout their lifecycle. FMO often helps implementing partners develop their MEAL plans by providing written guidelines, meeting with project staff, and sometimes providing a M&E specialist/consultant.

Delivery

At the project delivery or implementation stage, a delivery plan allows implementing partners and FMO staff to manage and adapt the programme or project to maintain or increase impact. LIFT does this by:

- ‡ Close monitoring of work plans to ensure that projects are keeping to schedule or adjusting schedules when needed
- ‡ Close monitoring of expenditures against the budget
- ‡ Tracking of project outputs and outcomes by reviewing annual and semi-annual reports, conducting site visits at least twice a year, and conducting mid-term reviews that assess the extent to which projects are relevant, efficient and effective in meeting their expected outputs and outcomes, their sustainability and contribution to gender equality. Mid-term reviews include a specific set of VfM questions.
- ‡ Providing feedback and encouraging adjustments through written reports, periodic and ad hoc site visits, community of practice meetings, and on-going communication.
- ‡ Fostering learning from successes and failures within and across projects by holding communities of practice meetings on particular themes, and conducting periodic and ad hoc site visits.
- ‡ Generating evidence for policy engagement through studies and community of practice meetings.
- ‡ Conducting VfM assessments within relevant projects.

Closure

At the closure stage, VfM processes focus on the achievement of outcomes and development

impacts. At LIFT, this may mean some projects close early if their expected additional impact no longer justifies the expected additional costs. Or a project may be extended if expected impacts significantly exceed expected extension costs. To determine this, LIFT:

- ‡ Reviews project reports, mid-term reviews, and other project documents
- ‡ Conducts end-of-project evaluations, which include specific VfM-related questions
- ‡ Conducts VfM assessments within and across projects

7.2

VfM Criteria and Metrics

LIFT defines and uses the following criteria to measure VfM throughout the project lifecycle.¹⁰⁰

Economy

Measures the cost of procuring goods and services, though attention must be maintained on the quality of the inputs being procured. Because LIFT's programmes and projects are so varied, it is not meaningful to provide one overall cost of procuring goods and services. Instead, LIFT monitors the percentage of projects that follow UNOPS's robust procurement procedures and monitors major cost drivers.

Efficiency

Measures the use of inputs to produce desired immediate effects or outputs. LIFT measures this by calculating cost per beneficiary overall and costs per beneficiary by major programme component.

Effectiveness

Measures the achievement of the expected outcomes.

Equity

Ensures the poorest individuals and communities are not left behind. In LIFT, this means cost-effectively reaching the most vulnerable in communities with services that help them 'hang in', 'step out' or 'step up'.

LIFT first reported on VfM in 2016, analysing metrics from 37 on-going projects in LIFT's four geographic programmes. In 2017, 66 projects in the geographic programmes, financial inclusion and migration programmes were assessed on VfM criteria.

In 2016, one VfM-related assessment was conducted, as an internal cost-benefit assessment of the SEDN project in the Dry Zone, and eight studies were planned to take place primarily in 2018. In 2017, with a growing focus on VfM, seven project VfM assessments were planned - five in the Delta 3 programme and two in the Dry Zone programme, plus two cross-project assessments looking at nutrition and agriculture projects in both the Delta 3 and Dry Zone programmes.

Within LIFT's Financial Inclusion programme, FMO examined microfinance partners' financial statements. Twelve of these assessments took place in 2017 and 13 are planned for 2018.

¹⁰⁰ Adapted from the UK's Department for International Development, VfM Guidance: Agriculture. June, 2017.

Project Phase	VfM Criteria	Measure/Metric	Achievement 2016 ¹⁰¹	Achievement 2017 ¹⁰²
Design	Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Equity	No. of projects providing specific VfM information in design	31 out of 37 (84%) active projects contracted or extended since 2015	31 out of 37 (84%) active projects contracted or extended since 2015
Mobilisation Delivery	Economy	No. of projects w/ identified cost drivers and controls	Of the 37 active projects in 2017, all 37 (100%) operated with identified cost drivers and controls.	Of the 66 active projects in 2017, all 66 (100%) operated with identified cost drivers and controls.
Delivery	Efficiency Effectiveness	% of projects on track with expected annual expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 19% spent more than 90% of their planned budgets ‡ 38% spent 90 to 71% of their planned budgets ‡ 43% spent less than 70% of their planned budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 24% spent more than 90% of their planned budgets ‡ 39% spent 90 to 71% of their planned budgets ‡ 36% spent less than 70% of their planned budgets
Delivery	Efficiency Effectiveness	% of projects on track with expected implementation rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 36% implemented more than 90% of their plan ‡ 25% implemented 90 to 71% of their plan ‡ 40% implemented less than 70% of their plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 28% implemented more than 90% of their plan ‡ 36% implemented 90 to 71% of their plan ‡ 35% implemented less than 70% of their plan

▲ **Table 7.1**
Value for Money Measures for Operations

Project Phase	VfM Criteria	Measure/Metric	Achievement 2016	Achievement 2017
Delivery Closure	Economy Efficiency Effectiveness Equity	No. of project VfM assessments conducted	0	12
Delivery Closure	Economy Efficiency Effectiveness Equity	No. of project VfM assessments conducted	8	20
Delivery Closure	Economy Efficiency Effectiveness Equity	No. of project VfM assessments conducted	0	2
Delivery Closure	Economy Efficiency Effectiveness Equity	No. of project VfM assessments conducted	0	4

▲ **Table 7.2**
VfM Assessments Conducted and Planned

¹⁰¹ Includes active projects in LIFT's four geographic programmes: Delta, Dry Zone, Rakhine and Uplands

¹⁰² Includes active projects in LIFT's four geographic programmes, plus the two thematic programmes of Financial Inclusion and Migration

Efficiency: LIFT's outreach

Based on 2017 expenditure reports and the number of households reached in 2017 through all programmes and projects, including financial inclusion, it is estimated that LIFT's implementing partners' costs of providing services was USD 22.76 for each household reached, or USD 5.17 for each individual within those households.

Because LIFT supports a wide variety of development activities, it is important to look at the cost of delivering key programme components.

Based on 2017 expenditure and reach reports, the cost of providing agricultural support was USD 151 per household, which includes training and material inputs, and

the cost of providing maternal and child cash transfers was USD 70, which includes cash transfers and health information. For microfinance, LIFT's cost per active client, assuming one active client per household, was USD 2.62 or 60 cents per individual reached. However, LIFT's investment of nearly USD 10 million in 2017 leveraged an additional USD 86 million in loans disbursed by LIFT-supported MFIs.

As seen above, LIFT's costs per beneficiary have decreased since 2016, both overall and in all three major programme components. When looking at 2017 project expenditures, the overall cost reduced by USD 13.24 per household and by USD 2.83 per individual reached. With the agriculture production projects, there was a

drop in cost per household of USD 3 and USD 0.68 per individual reached. With the MCCT projects, the cost per household decreased by USD 8. Lastly, with financial inclusion projects there was the sharp decrease of USD 11.50 per household and USD 2.70 per individual. Reasons for the sharp decline in financial inclusion costs are that more capital became available allowing MFIs to supply more loans with the existing organisational structure. In addition, as MFIs mature they become more efficient in providing financial services.

Effectiveness: Achievement of Expected Outcomes

LIFT identifies its effectiveness by measuring a set of logframe indicators using outreach data provided by implementing partners and outcome data measured through a large population-based household survey. Although LIFT can take credit of its outputs, it cannot claim full responsibility for its expected outcomes. However, based on LIFT's scope, size and location of activities, plus the sampling strategy of the household survey, it can be assumed that LIFT has contributed in significant ways to the changes in logframe indicators, as reported in Chapter 2. When looking at VfM in LIFT's three major programme components, LIFT's overall effectiveness can be demonstrated as:

Agriculture

- ‡ Trial and adoption rates: In LIFT's 2017 household survey, seven percent of respondents reported to have trialled (for less than one year) or adopted (for more than one year) improved agricultural practices, inputs and technologies. When extrapolated to households reached in 2017, 60,162 households are estimated to have trialled or adopted new agricultural practices, which when combined with LIFT's earlier achievement, means that LIFT achieved 114 per cent of this indicator's 2017 milestone.
- ‡ Increase in agricultural income: In LIFT's 2017 household survey, 16 percent of households reported to have secured higher returns (profits) in the past 12 months from agriculture, livestock and fishery activities. When extrapolated to households LIFT reached in 2017, 299,171 households are estimated to have secured higher returns which, when combined with LIFT's previous achievement, is 242 percent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

Maternal and Child Cash Transfers

- ‡ Child diet diversity: In LIFT's household surveys, for children from 6 to 23 months of age, their acceptable diet diversity increased from 26 per cent in 2015 to 43 per cent in 2017. When extrapolated to children in this same age group in LIFT's programme area, it is estimated that 9,313 have acceptable diet diversity, which is 87 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

Programme Component	Number of projects	Number of households reached 2017	LIFT expenditure 2017	Cost per household USD	Cost per individual USD
Agriculture production	22	104,728	15,818,839	151.04	34.32
Maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT)	5	81,333	5,686,448	70	NA
Microfinance (active clients)	12	2,132,447	5,596,259	2.62	0.60

▲ Table 7.3

VfM in LIFT's outreach overall and by select programme components for 2017

Programme Component	Cost per household USD		Cost per individual USD	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
LIFT projects overall	36	22.76	8	5.17
Agriculture production projects	154	151	35	34.32
Maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) projects	78	70	N/A	N/A
Financial inclusion projects	14.5	3	3.3	0.60

▲ Table 7.4

VfM in LIFT's Outreach for 2016 and 2017

- ‡ Exclusive breastfeeding: In LIFT's household surveys, children from 0 to 5 months of age who were exclusively breastfed in the previous 24 hours increased from 47 per cent in 2015 to 67 per cent in 2017. When extrapolated to children in this same age group in LIFT's programme area, it is estimated that 5,080 have been exclusively breastfed, which is 76 per cent of LIFT's 2017 milestone.

Financial Inclusion

For a microfinance institution (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.

- ‡ Portfolio at risk: LIFT MFIs' loan portfolio at risk (PAR)—the proportion of the loan portfolio that is in arrears and therefore at risk of not being repaid—is less than one percent. The best MFIs worldwide show a PAR of between one and six percent. The loan write-off is less than one tenth of one percent.
- ‡ Operational and financial self-sufficiency: All LIFT MFIs have achieved operational self-sufficiency in 2017, and nearly 90 per cent of those supported since 2015 have achieved financial self-sufficiency.

Policy

A brief summary of value for money outcomes in select areas of LIFT's policy engagements in 2017:

Agriculture Policy

LIFT provided Technical Assistance to the Department of Planning at MoALI to support the development of the Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan, 2018 – 2022 (ADS/IP). LIFT engaged two national consultants on a full time basis throughout the year to provide technical and administrative support for the ADS/IP. This support has been instrumental in ensuring that key stakeholders at the Union and State/Regional level as well as township level have had a voice in the development of the strategy. Civil society organisations, including LIFT's strategic partners LCG and FSWG, were also actively engaged to ensure that local realities through the country were reflected in the strategy. Importantly, the LIFT consultants worked closely across all departments within MoALI to promote institutional support and “buy-in” at Union level. These consultations have been essential for promoting a strong sense of ownership over the strategy by the government.

National Livestock Survey

Accurate livestock surveys provide essential information to guide evidence-based policy in the livestock sector. LIFT support for the FAO's Dry Zone Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing Project enabled the project to complete a livestock survey in the project's six target townships. The project also provided technical assistance to the LBVD to conduct a livestock census in 8 townships in Mandalay region. As a result of these successful efforts, in 2017 the Government allocated USD 1 million to conduct the first National Livestock Baseline Survey in early 2018. The survey will include data for 1.5 million households.

Fortified Rice

Government Purchases: LIFT's implementing partner PATH has been working to develop sustainable markets for fortified rice. In 2017, DSW decided to replace existing traditional rice in the lunch programs of its 49+ nursery schools with fortified rice across seven regions in the country. About 12,000 children will benefit from meals including fortified rice. The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) also procured and distributed to conflict-affected populations in Northern Rakhine State.

Chin State MCCT

LIFT has continued to collaborate with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and the Chin State Government to support the Chin State MCCT programme, which was the first statewide MCCT programme to be implemented by DSW. In addition to number of beneficiaries, another important benefit of LIFT's engagement with DSW concerns significant institutional development that is taking place within DSW. For example, LIFT,

in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children, also played an active role in helping DSW convene a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Task Force that includes the National Nutrition Centre (NNC) and the Health Literacy Promotion Unit (HLPU) from the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS). LIFT also collaborated with UNICEF and Save the Children to help convene a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to help coordinate MCCT M & E activities. These are important developments as DSW continues to strengthen its institutional capacities to manage an increasing portfolio of social protection services.

Social protection

The HelpAge International (HAI) project has demonstrated cost-effectiveness through the government's increased budget allocations to finance social pensions. LIFT's investment of USD 2 million in the project informed the government's decision to fund a universal pension scheme and the government has allocated USD 3 million for the 2017 - 2018 financial year. The national social pension scheme provides all people 90 years of age and over with a monthly stipend of MMK 10,000. In the 2018-2019 financial year, the government will reduce the age ceiling down to 85 years. This suggests that government's budget for social pensions will be expanded as the number of elderly pensioners will increase. HelpAge's support for the government's social protection programming and policies represents significant value for money as the initiative has promoted ownership by the government and its constituents that will enable social pension programming to continue well beyond the project period.

Equity

LIFT's current strategy 2014-2018 focuses resources on rural households to assist them to 'step up', 'step out' or 'hang in' depending on their commercial potential to improve their lives. Equity is an important element to ensuring no one is left behind. All LIFT's programmes target the poor in rural communities with the aim of improving their livelihood opportunities, incomes and nutrition. In 2017, LIFT expanded its reach to the most vulnerable.

In 2017, LIFT's Uplands programme expanded its reach into areas affected by conflict in Kayin State, northern Shan State, Kachin State. In Tanintharyi a vocational training centre was established to deliver skills to Karen people, particularly those who had been displaced by conflict.

VisionFund Myanmar opened microfinance branches in Upland areas where financial services were unavailable or limited, including in IDP camps in Kachin. Around 11 per cent of their clients are people with disabilities.

Implementing partners in the Rakhine programme provided vocational skills training to Muslim people in IDP camps who were displaced by conflict, and adjusted how they

work to overcome challenges in delivery throughout the year.

The elderly and people with disabilities continued to receive support from LIFT's social protection partner HelpAge International in the Dry Zone. The project's pilot of delivering pensions to the elderly contributed to the government's roll out of pensions, in 2018, to people aged over 90.

The Migration Programme began in 2017 and supports people who are migrating, particularly women, to ensure their migration for work opportunities is safe and rewarding through a range of interventions skills training and education about nutrition, finance and labour rights. The rural families of people migrating for work are also supported with financial literacy so they can better manage the remittances that are important sources of income to rural poor households.

In 2018, LIFT is developing its new strategy for the next phase of programming 2019-2023 and will have a strengthened focus on reaching the most vulnerable people. The pillars of the new programme will be designed to reach people living in areas emerging from conflict, internally-displaced people, people with disabilities, migrants and women.

7.3 Programmes' use of VfM results in 2017

The mid-term review of Save the Children's BRIGHT SUN project in the Delta programme found staffing levels were high. To explore ways to reduce staffing costs following the mid-term review, the project began piloting delivery of maternal and child cash transfers through WAVE Money's mobile money facility in 30 per cent of target villages, to 800 beneficiaries. The mid-term review of the project found that coordination and collaboration with government health structure supported by 3MDG's project could be improved. The project revised its engagement strategy and promoted better integration with health staff for the delivery of the SBCC component. These improvements are likely to increase efficiency of delivering SBCC messages and increase their effectiveness.

Also as part of the Delta programme, Radanar Ayar's Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development project's mid-term review found there were delays in implementation of marketing activities and seed storage construction. The review recommended that the project focus on fewer storage facilities, based on actual utilisation of existing facilities. The FMO requested an elaborate review of the budget to explore whether activities should be pursued or amounts relocated to other interventions that are expected to be more effective. The number of storage facilities planned has been reduced and the project will work with more efforts on the marketing activities for the remaining period. The proposal of forming a seed centre with functions related to demand and supply

aggregation was rejected by FMO because of weaknesses in the business model.

In the Dry Zone programme, the Terres de Homme (TdH) project adjusted its approach to introducing hydroponic home garden systems after it was found during the first phase that households were not starting their own hydroponic systems without project support due to the size and costs of the greenhouses and hydroponic systems. The project received a no-cost extension and used it to design smaller, more cost effective greenhouses for households with smaller yards and started to provide only limited in-kind support for households who were developing the home garden systems.

Value for money considerations also resulted in project's being closed or their scope reduced because of limited progress. In 2017, LIFT's Fund Management Office terminated one grant where the results were deemed not achievable, another was reduced significantly and then terminated early and a third was revised and re-focused around a narrower set of achievable results (based on a mid-term review).

As LIFT makes the strategic shift to work in more fragile and remote areas, it will be a challenge for LIFT to deliver on its current levels of value for money. A move into these areas has higher unit costs, and often reaches fewer people, because:

- ‡ Lower population density
- ‡ Weak social cohesion (in-out migration, temporary versus long-term residence)
- ‡ Lower knowledge and skills base
- ‡ Weak infrastructure
- ‡ High security costs
- ‡ Need to pay higher salaries as incentives
- ‡ Need for greater capacity development

7.4 Strengthening LIFT's VfM in 2018 and beyond

LIFT continues to assess ways to improve VfM in its programme and project management. A focus in 2018 will be to involve implementing partners in collecting and analysing data and information they can use and report to LIFT's programmes regularly for monitoring and improving intervention's economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity. In 2018, 13 case studies will be undertaken to assess how value for money is addressed in selected projects. The assessments will be used to strengthen how value for money is incorporated into LIFT's programme management. The goal is to develop a set of indicators that are not burdensome for implementing partners and provide data that can be aggregated and shared across projects and regions, programmes and pillars for vertical and horizontal analysis across LIFT's programme. LIFT will continue to include and improve value for money criteria and metrics in all evaluations and assessments as well as in calls for proposals and terms of reference. A VfM expert will be contracted to provide support to the Fund Management Office and to implementing partners in 2018.









8.0

Fund Management

First full year of government representation on Fund Board

The Government of Myanmar formally joined the LIFT Fund Board in March 2016, following the election of the NLD-led government. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is represented by Dr. Tun Lwin, Assistant Secretary, and U Kyaw Swe Linn, Deputy Director General, and 2017 was the first full year of Government representation. The Fund Board and the Fund Management Office have appreciated and benefitted from their active engagement and contributions, ensuring Government is both informing and supporting LIFT's work.

Change in donor chairs and representation

In 2017, Denmark stepped down from LIFT's Fund Board but remained a member of LIFT's Donor Consortium. The UK completed a year as Chair of the Fund Board and the EU completed a year as the chair of the Donor Consortium.

New Fund Director

Andrew Kirkwood, LIFT's Fund Director since 2011, took on the new role of Director and Representative for UNOPS in March 2017. A new Fund Director, Katy Webley, was recruited and started in June 2017.

Design of post-2018 phase

The interim review of LIFT, commissioned by the Fund Board in November 2016, completed its work in 2017 to evaluate LIFT's performance against the current strategy. A set of recommendations were presented, including that a successor programme to LIFT needed to be planned and designed. The five main donors to LIFT confirmed their interest in, and commitment to, a successor fund. The Fund Board and the Fund Management Office started working on a process to consider, consult and design a next phase for the fund. With this collaborative arrangement, discussions on the scope and scale of the next phase of LIFT, and a final strategy are expected to be agreed in 2018.

First year of funding to government

When LIFT began, it did not allow fund flow to government institutions. In December 2016, with the change in government and LIFT's interest to support government's initiatives, the donors agreed to allow funding based on a number of conditions. As a result, LIFT signed the 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 is implemented across Chin state. The first payment was made in September 2017. The programme will continue until at least mid-2019.

Collaboration with 3MDG

LIFT and 3MDG have sought a closer collaboration in 2017, particularly on nutrition. The two funds share a technical advisor, recruited in 2018, and both funds are developing new strategies and programmes in nutrition. The funds have also collaborated in Rakhine.

Adapting to the situation in Rakhine

LIFT's Fund Board closely followed the events in Rakhine and met regularly with LIFT's implementing partners after the violence that began in August 2017. Following several meetings between the Fund Board and partners, LIFT developed a set of principles for work in Rakhine based on the Development Partners' Operating Principles. LIFT issued a call for proposals in December 2017 for potential projects. The call for proposals was titled: *Ensure that humanitarian and development needs of all people in Rakhine are addressed in a coordinated way for greater stability, interdependence, prosperity and growth*. Project partners have been selected and approved by the Fund Board and negotiations are underway, with projects due to start in mid-2018.

The call for proposals intended to attract additional funding from both existing and new donors, under the LIFT's policy for restricted funding, agreed in March 2015. This policy allows LIFT to accept restricted financial contributions under certain conditions. The outcome of this intention will be seen in 2018.

Change in programme support approach

UNOPS Myanmar is managing three large multi-donor funds (JPF, 3MDG and LIFT). All three funds have been operating with their own programme support units since their inception. In 2017, the funds agreed to transition from these individual programme support units to a shared structure that is built on the four main functions in programme support (grant management, administration and operations, budgeting and reporting, and oversight/audit). Each function is led by a specialist who brings in the technical expertise, and builds the capacity of the teams they are responsible for. This structure allows benefiting from learning and adapting to best practices, exchange of information, harmonisation and standardisation across the funds, while keeping the flexibility and potential to adapt to the different requirements of fund boards and donors. The Programme Management Office, the PMO as it is referred to, will allow the optimal use of resources and improved oversight and control within the programmes. It is also expected

98 <https://www.lift-fund.org/aquaculture-myanmar-fish-farm-technology-production-economics-and-management-highlights-enmm>

that the new structure will allow for smooth scale-up or -down depending on the level of funding, number of grants or projects. This was considered as particularly important in view of LIFT and 3MDG approaching the end of a lifecycle.

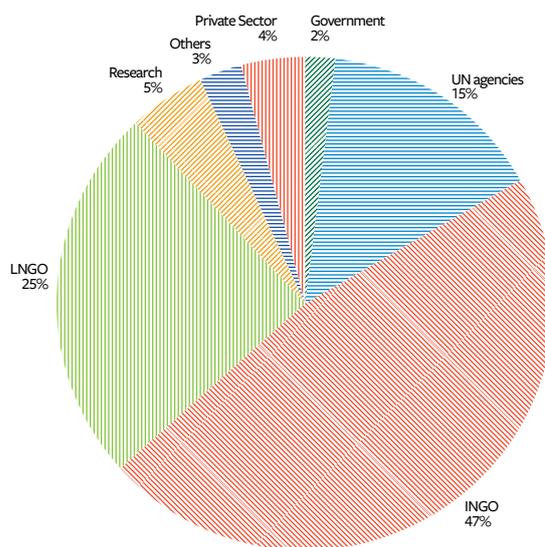
8.2 Allocation of LIFT funds

LIFT uses a couple of indicators to track the degree to which funds are allocated in line with Fund Board policies and are accounted for in a transparent manner. As seen from table 8.1, 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 the year 2016 was carried out in May 2017. 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, human resources and general administration. The report gave a partially satisfactory rating on project management, due to one medium priority observation in this area.

In terms of audits of implementing partners (IPs), it was a busy year with a total of 66 projects being audited, the highest number of projects since the start of LIFT (56 audits in 2016). There has been a slight reduction in observations of 'high priority', from 10 in the previous year, to 7 high priority audited in 2017.

Indicator	LIFT target for 2017	Achievement 2017	Per cent achieved
% of clear Fund Board (FB) recommendations implemented by Fund Manager (FM) within given deadlines	100%	95% ¹⁰³	95%
% and number of audit areas (both FM and IPs) rated 'high priority' by the auditors	0 for all parties	7 for all parties ¹⁰⁴	

▲ Table 8.1
Fund Management Office performance indicators



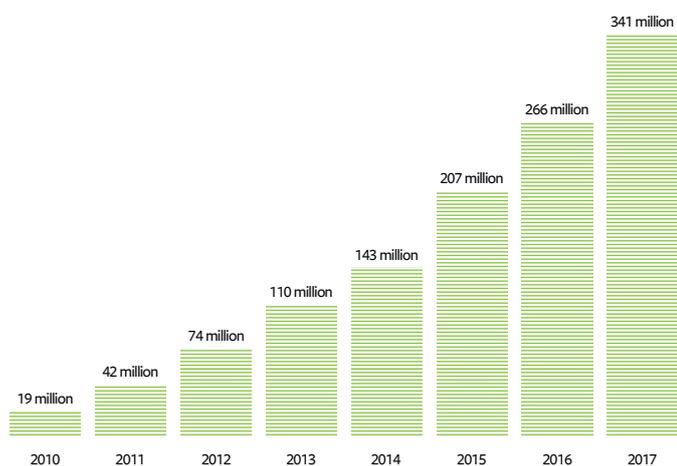
▲ Figure 8.1
Proportion of types of implementing partners in 2017

Programme Component	Contracts Signed		Projects Finished	Ongoing Projects E=C-D	Contract amendments	
	Up to end Dec 2016 B	Up to end Dec 2017 C			Up to end Dec 2016 G	Up to end Dec 2017 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	6	7
Learning and innovation	27	27	17	10	57	70
Financial Inclusion	16	16	6	10	15	21
Rakhine	11	12	6	6	7	12
Dry Zone	12	13	2	11	5	15
Delta 3	9	10	0	10	3	10
Upland	11	15	4	11	0	6
Private sector	2	2	1	1	0	2
Migration	4	7	0	7	1	7
Civil society	3	6	0	6	0	4
Flood response	3	3	3	0	2	2
Extra nutrition	1	2	0	2	0	0
Grand Total	154	168	93	75	201	261

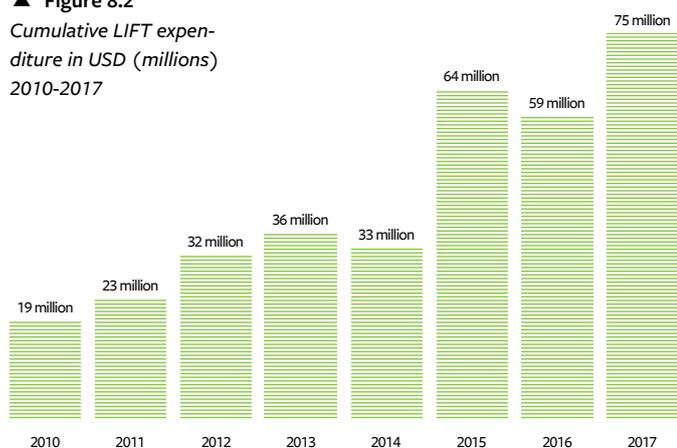
◀ Table 8.2
Project status by funding window as of end December 2017

¹⁰³ There were 64 Fund Board recommended actions for the Fund Manager arising from the three Fund Board meetings in 2017, 61 of which were implemented within the given deadlines.

¹⁰⁴ There were 7 'high priority' audit observation for the IPs (out of 168 observations in total). The FMO had one medium priority observation. The audits of 2017 expenditure will take place in 2018.



▲ **Figure 8.2**
Cumulative LIFT expenditure in USD (millions)
2010-2017



▲ **Figure 8.3**
Annual LIFT expenditure in USD (millions)
2010-2017

Indicator	LIFT target for 2017	Achievement 2017	Per cent achieved
Percentage of funds released by FMO that are in line with IP contracts	87%	99.5% ¹⁰⁵	112%
Percentage of IPs for whom the FMO completes a financial system review	100%	100%	100%

▲ **Table 8.3**
Results for fund flow and implementing partner performance in 2017

¹⁰⁵ This is based on the amount of IP expenditure deemed ineligible as a proportion of total IP expenditure, based on the audit of 2016 expenditure (0.53% of total expenditure incurred by the IPs).

LIFT had 75 ongoing projects at the end of 2017, which is the highest number of projects since its start. There has been only one change to the distribution of partners in 2017 when the government became a new implementing partner (see figure 8.1). In 2016, the Fund Board agreed to fund the maternal and child cash transfer (MCCT) project in Chin State to be implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR)'s Department of Social Welfare.

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 192,702 was identified as ineligible expenditures, which represents 0.53% of total expenditure incurred by the IPs (2.1% in previous year).

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 2017 are summarised in Table 8.4. In total, 74 projects have been assessed with this tool, the highest number since the inception of LIFT. This is also reflected in the delivery of 2017, and indicates that the programmes are in full implementation.

The results of the traffic lights this year are similar to 2016, except a slight increase in the 'high risk' column (from 6 per cent to 10.8 per cent). This is attributed mostly to late reporting of some IPs.

Last year's 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 2016 was 38 per cent in the red column, compared to 35 per cent this year). Reasons for low expenditures are varied, however, they relate often to IPs being too ambitious for their first year of implementation, facing delays in their setting up of the projects.

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.

Indicators	Low risk (Green)		Medium risk (Yellow)		High risk (Red)	
	Threshold	Per cent of grants (52)	Threshold	Per cent of grants (52)	Threshold	Per cent of grants (52)
Implementation rate	>90% on track	28%	71% - 90% on track	36%	<=70% on track	35%
Annual expenditure	>90% spent	24%	71% - 90% spent	39%	<=70% spent	36%
Reporting timeliness	0 days late	88%	1-7 days late	8%	>8 days late	4%
Report completeness	100% complete	100%	71 - 99% complete	0%	<=70% complete	0%
Management controls*	0 open observations	38%	1-3 open observations	49%	>3 open observations	13%

◀ **Table 8.4**
Summary of project management indicators by 'traffic light' category for 2017

*Note: the overall rating is assigned through the weighting of the risk assessment of each of the five indicators.

Overall rating

2017	44.6%	44.6%	10.8%
2016	49%	45%	6%
2015	41%	45%	14%
2014	51%	37%	12%
2013	48%	41%	12%
2012	32%	41%	32%

▼ **Table 8.5**
Cumulative donor contributions up to 31 December 2017

8.4

Finance

In 2017, LIFT increased from USD 439 million at the end of 2016 to USD 451 million.

LIFT is at the peak of its implementation of the current strategy, reflected in the expenditure and in the high number of active grants of which most are at the mid-term of implementation. LIFT had budgeted for a delivery of USD 74.9 million for 2017 and spent slightly higher, USD 75.2 million. This represents the highest annual expenditure since inception in 2010. The increase in spending is for a number of reasons, but is mostly attributed to higher expenditures in the microfinance sector, as the demand for access to capital through the TCX mechanism was much higher than expected (see 'non-grant supports' in table 8.6, higher by 16 per cent).

Donor	Signed Commitments* (USD)	Percentage of total
Australia	26,278,190	5.9%
Denmark	9,991,566	2.2%
European Union	133,194,895	29.7%
France	1,319,800	0.3%
Ireland	1,481,810	0.3%
Italy	852,040	0.2%
Luxembourg	1,147,388	0.3%
Mitsubishi	200,000	0.0%
Netherlands	2,950,000	0.7%
New Zealand	809,650	0.2%
Sweden	2,725,776	0.6%
Switzerland	25,214,010	5.6%
United Kingdom	220,046,042	49.1%
United States	17,430,000	3.9%
UNDP/ PGMF	4,681,958	1.0%
Total donors' contribution	448,323,125	100%
Interest earned	2,842,854	
Total	451,165,979	

Activity	Budget (USD)	Actual (USD)	Over / (under) spent	Per cent
Grants to implementing partners	60,019,180	59,740,473	(278,707)	0%
Non-grant support*	6,532,883	7,575,599	1,042,716	16%
Research	1,381,460	1,464,112	82,652	6%
Operation of the Fund Manager's office	5,460,294	5,019,223	(441,071)	-8%
Support to the Fund Board	65,360	19,127	(46,233)	-71%
Facilities and administration	1,465,992	1,413,796	(52,196)	-4%
Total	74,925,169	75,232,330	307,161	0%

▲ Table 8.6
LIFT expenditure for 2017

8.5 Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

Throughout 2017, LIFT continued to implement and refine its relatively new MEAL framework, undertook numerous project evaluations and several monitoring and evaluation-related studies, and strengthened the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacities of its implementing partners.

Refining and implementing the new MEAL framework

In 2017, LIFT:

- ‡ Completed LIFT's first full set of indicator reference sheets, which documents for each logframe indicator a detailed definition, data sources, data collection methods, and calculation and reporting procedures.
- ‡ Revised LIFT's logframe's annual milestones and total targets, based on LIFT's previous achievements, revised funding levels, and newly available baseline results for LIFT's new programme areas. Most of the targets increased substantially and the revised targets were approved by the Fund Board in May.
- ‡ For the first time, reported on parts of LIFT's new value for money framework, looking to monetarise LIFT's benefits at the operations, outreach, and outcomes levels.
- ‡ Revised LIFT's rapid data quality assessment (RDQA) checklist and procedures, and piloted them with several different types of implementing partners.

M&E-related studies and project evaluations

In 2017, LIFT conducted the following M&E studies and project evaluations.

LIFT Interim Review

On behalf of LIFT's Fund Board, LIFT oversaw the completion of the LIFT Interim Review, conducted by Coffey International.

Household tracking survey

LIFT oversaw the redesign and completion of the tracking survey, in which the sampling approach was adapted and sample size doubled to take better account of LIFT's rapidly expanding Financial Inclusion programmes. When calculating the logframe indicator results for the Annual Report 2016, the tracking survey results were extrapolated to both core programme areas (Tier 1) and financial inclusion-only programme areas (Tier 2), to better capture LIFT's overall programme effect.

Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring (QSEM) Report, Round 6

LIFT oversaw the revision and completion of this report, the final round of this research conducted by the World Bank.

Chin State maternal and child cash transfer project's baseline survey

LIFT oversaw the design and implementation of the baseline survey.

LIFT's Evaluation and Learning Question (ELQ) studies

LIFT guided the implementation of the first round of the in-depth outcome studies conducted on income and assets, vulnerability and resilience, and an assessment of the relevance and sustainability of many of LIFT's current projects. In May, the consultants conducting these integrated studies held 'Resilience Week', where they presented their preliminary baseline findings to LIFT's fund management office and received feedback. The team of consultants and the M&E team then developed a Resilience Synthesis Brief and further developed a conceptual and analytical framework for the future endline studies.

Mid-term reviews and end-of-project evaluations: In 2017, LIFT conducted 22 project mid-term reviews and six final evaluations. Programme teams oversaw the evaluations.

Strengthened implementing partners' M&E systems

FMO continued to help IPs implement MEAL systems by:

- ‡ Training 17 implementing partners (IPs) on using LIFT's M&E reporting sheets, as part of their annual and semi-annual reporting obligations. Most of these trainings were with IPs working in LIFT's Uplands and Migration programmes.
- ‡ Conducted formal reviews of six IPs' M&E systems, using LIFT's newly revised routine data quality assessment checklist.
- ‡ Facilitated a participatory M&E planning workshop for the Chin maternal and child cash transfer project, with staff from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), General Administration Department (GAD), UNICEF, and Myanmar Survey Research (MSR) and with LIFT IPs implementing components of the project,

including Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and International Rescue Committee (IRC). The purpose of the workshop was to help DSW develop a full M&E plan, as well as interact with partners experienced in implementing MCCT projects.

LIFT also continued to support the Myanmar Monitoring and Evaluation Association (MMEA), a professional association of about 170 M&E practitioners from Myanmar NGOs, INGOs, UN organisations, academia, private consulting firms, and government agencies. In 2017, MMEA conducted seven learning events on *The Use of Mobile Technology in Data Collection*, *The Use of Appreciative Enquiry in Evaluation*, *Basic M& Statistics*, *GIS and Spatial Data*, and *the Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI)*. MMEA also made progress in becoming a legally registered association with the Government of Myanmar. A steering committee was formed, rules and regulations were further developed and a bank account was opened. MMEA also became a formal member of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA).

8.6

Knowledge management and learning

Knowledge Management

LIFT's knowledge management objective is to turn LIFT-generated knowledge into action and for this to lead to improvements in internal and external policies and practices. It also aims to inform Myanmar's development needs beyond 2018 as the current stage of LIFT comes to an end. LIFT seeks to achieve this by supporting the development of knowledge in key technical areas and developing processes that encourage reflection, communication and the uptake of knowledge. It takes a people-centric approach and focuses on people as the drivers and vehicles for learning.

In 2016, LIFT rejuvenated its knowledge management processes and strategy and in 2017 a knowledge management culture has been further embedded within LIFT. The legacy paper series was rolled out and the findings from LIFT's interim review were used to spark further investigation into key strategic areas for LIFT.

A culture of knowledge management within LIFT

Knowledge management has become a priority within all of LIFT's programmes. Communities of practice and knowledge sharing events have become increasingly common, and are of a higher quality, with a greater focus on implementing partners proactively engaging with each other to develop knowledge in key thematic areas, such as natural resource management, inclusive value chains and policy. As well as these communities of practice within each of the programmes, partners whose work relates to policy came together to discuss the

Implementing Partners	Project Name	Programme
Mercy Corps	Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)	Delta
Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association	Improved Nutritional Status of Venerable Community through self-help potential	Dry Zone
UN-Habitat	A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities	Dry Zone
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development	Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State	Upland
World Fish	Promoting sustainable growth of aquaculture in Myanmar to improve food security and income for communities in the Ayeyarwady, Delta and Central Dry Zone (MYCulture-MYFC)	Delta
World Vision	Growing livelihood in Bogale	Delta
International Labour Organization	Development of Internal and International Labour and Migration Governance (DIILM)	Migration
Welthungerhilfe	Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development- Delta RISE	Delta
Karen Mission Social Solidarity & civil society	Strategic partnership for civil society empowerment (SPeCE)	Upland
Metta Development Foundation	Uplands food security and participation in Markets (UFS-PM)	Upland
Link Emergency Aid & Deelopment	Supporting landless households livelihoods and food security through alternative income generation activities in Pyinsalu Sub-township	Delta
Radanar Ayar	Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development Project	Delta
International Fertilizer Development Center	Myanmar Agro-Input and Farm Services Project (MAFS)	Dry Zone
Golden Plain	Project for restoring unproductive soil to get sustainable yield by green manuring and modified cropping system in dry zone	Dry Zone
Food and Agriculture Organization	Improving farmer livelihoods in the Dry Zone through improved livestock health, productivity and marketing	Dry Zone
Save the Children	Bright sun: Building Resilience Synergy	Delta
HelpAge International	Dry Zone Social Protection Project	Dry Zone
Save the Children	Learning, Evidence Generation and Advocacy for Catalising Policy (LEGACY) Project	Dry Zone
BBC Media Action	Kyat Chat: Making the most of migration and money	Migration
International Rescue Committee (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine
Save the Children (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine
Care (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine
Care M&E (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine

Implementing Partners	Project Name	Programme
Oxfam (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine
Better Life Organisation (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine
UNESCAP	An integrated rural economic development programme for livelihoods improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar	Dry Zone
IERG	Gross-roots entrepreneurship education and pro-poor enterprise development	Financial Inclusion
HelpAge International	Strengthening the Ministry of Social Welfare to fulfil its role in expanding social protection project	Dry Zone
TAG	Plan Bee: Introduction and expansion of modern beekeeping and honey production in Shan state	Uplands
Oxfam (Tat Lan)	Sustainable food security and livelihood programme: Tat Lan Phase II	Rakhine

▲ **Table 8.8**
Final project evaluations

◀ **Table 8.7**
Mid-term project reviews

challenges of influencing policy and monitoring their impact. Partners also came together across programmes to discuss implementation of nutrition projects. They have been supported by LIFT's nutrition specialist partner LEARN. LIFT has also dedicated time and resources to knowledge sharing and learning internally. LIFT's strategy and planning retreat in January 2017 was not only valuable for building team morale but was also used to facilitate internal knowledge sharing within LIFT. The whole team came together to share experiences and lessons from the past years and then used these experiences to shape LIFT's future and work plan for 2017.

The LIFT legacy series

In the first half of 2017, LIFT kicked off its legacy series and investigated four important themes.

Policy engagement

The first legacy paper investigated the challenges and successes of the policy component of the Tat Lan programme implemented by Oxfam. It found that working with local partners and adopting a conflict sensitive approach are key for supporting greater communication, transparency and accountability between local government and its people.

Nutrition

LIFT's second legacy paper looked at the involvement of men in LIFT's nutrition projects in the Delta Programme. It found that the projects implemented by Welthungerhilfe and GRET had high rates of participation amongst men compared to global averages. It also made some key recommendations on how to increase men's involvement. These included linking nutrition training to activities that men already take ownership of, such as farming and agriculture.

Migration

This third legacy paper investigated the role of internal and international labour migration for Myanmar's development. It found how safe, well-supported migration can support Myanmar's development and highlighted the need for increased policy attention and proactive policy-making to maximise these benefits for all.

Village Development Planning

The fourth legacy paper analysed the village development model that the DRD and LIFT's technical team in Nay Pyi Taw have developed, piloted and are now implementing across Myanmar's 298 rural townships. The paper highlighted how the model differs from other village development planning models. Instead of using external practitioners to carry out the planning as part of an isolated block grant, it trains village resident planners, builds the planning capacity at the township level and integrates village plans into national planning cycles and budgets. These differences ensure that solutions match villages' needs and that the model is sustainable. The paper uncovered some initial lessons from this work but further analysis is needed at a later date when the impact of the model can be fully investigated.

Myanmar's rural transition and LIFT 2010-2017

This paper examined Myanmar's rural transition between 2010 and 2017 and investigated LIFT's programmatic response to it using LIFT's Household Surveys 2011, 2013, 2015, QESM research, LIFT Annual Reports and semi-structured interviews within LIFT and with its key stakeholders.

The first two papers were finalised and published in 2017. The remaining three will be published in 2018.

LIFT's Interim review and knowledge management

LIFT's internal interim review highlighted some key areas where LIFT should dedicate more attention. As a result, LIFT is investigating the successes and failures of how it has incorporated climate change into its programmes. This analysis began in the second half of 2017 to capture lessons for future programming. Gender is another key area where LIFT is dedicating more attention and ensuring lessons are captured. A gender specialist began working to support IPs and help feed the lessons from LIFT's approach to gender into programmes.

8.7

Communications

New programmes and policy areas

To facilitate better understanding of new programmes and policy areas, LIFT develops and updates one-page briefs for each programme and policy notes on nutrition, MCCTs and rural finance. These are shared on the website, at

Communities of practice	Date	Process and Overview
Nutrition Uplands	April 2017	A CoP for all LIFT Uplands partners to discuss nutrition. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A market place ‡ A presentation on approaches and methods for barrier analysis on nutrition ‡ Two group work sessions: one dealing with gender dimensions of nutrition, and one dealing with constraints and resources for evidence-based nutrition programming among LIFT's IPs.
Natural resource management (NRM) mapping and planning methods Uplands	April 2017	A CoP for all LIFT Uplands partners to discuss natural resource planning and mapping tools. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A market place ‡ Session on participatory and gender-sensitive NRM planning ‡ Session on participatory land use and resource mapping methodologies ‡ Two working groups to discuss the benefits of using GIS tools for NRM mapping and on key information about customary management that needs to be collected
LIFT & policy	May 2017	A second LIFT policy workshop building on first policy CoP in December. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Panel and participant discussion: IP experiences with attribution ‡ 'Policy lotto': participants in teams of two randomly selected scenarios depicting real-life policy situations and each team discussed how they would manage the situation ‡ Expert panel discussion on working with government
Agricultural Value Chains Selection and Analysis Value Chains Uplands	May 2017	A CoP for all LIFT Uplands partners to discuss upland agricultural value chains. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A market place ‡ Session on value chain selection and analysis ‡ Session on SNV's approach to value chain analysis on the cardamom value chain ‡ Two working groups to discuss the criteria that the project team should consider for the selection of agricultural value chains with potential for improvement; and on what data needs to be collected for value chain analysis and what studies will be conducted
Community mobilisation Civil society Dry Zone	May 2017	Sharing of methods and practices of community mobilisation in participants' project villages in the Dry Zone
Nutrition information, education and communication Nutrition Dry Zone	June 2017	Participants discussed the development of effective information, education and communication materials for nutrition in the Dry Zone.
Approaches to nutrition projects Nutrition Delta	June 2017	At the CoP participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Discussed establishing a continuous learning platform/tool among LIFT IPs on a specific topic based on their interest and expertise ‡ How LIFT's partners can cooperate and add value to existing initiatives, to identify linkages and opportunities for strategic collaboration. ‡ How new knowledge can be generated to help organisations transform their practices to accommodate changes in needs and technologies. ‡ How they would gather information to contribute to the Delta Programme's nutrition evaluation and learning questions
Conservation agriculture Dry Zone	July 2017	23 participants from five organisations and officers from the Department of Agriculture discussed conservation agriculture in the Dry Zone.
Approaches and methods for nutrition causal analysis and barrier analysis Uplands	August 2017	Implementing partners shared results and findings from casual/barrier analysis and KAP surveys.
Implementation strategies of value chains projects Uplands	August 2017	INGOs funded by LIFT and INGOs who are not LIFT partners shared their experiences of implementing value chain projects in Myanmar. Organisations that presented cases of their value chain activities were MEDA, Mercy Corps, Greenovator, SNV, Win Rock and GIZ.
Geographic information systems Natural resource management (NRM) Uplands	August 2017	The CoP aimed to increase knowledge on how to apply and create the NRM maps using Q-GIS, Google Earth and GPS on smart phones.
Livestock development and community animal health workers Dry Zone	September 2017	Twenty-two participants from eight organisations and officers from Livestock Breeding Veterinary Department participated in the one-day CoP meeting on livestock and community animal health workers.

◀ **Table 8.9**
Communities of practice (CoP) in 2017

events and with government. In 2017, materials were produced for new programmes such as migration and the Uplands programme, overall, and in Chin State.

The communications team also prepared briefing packages for EU, USAID and DFID visits to LIFT projects in the Delta, Dry Zone and Uplands in 2017.

Publications

In 2017 15 new LIFT publications were produced including the LIFT Annual Report 2016 and LIFT's Household Survey 2015. Two versions of the Annual Report 2016 were produced – full version and a highlights version – in both English and Myanmar. These are available in printed version and can be downloaded from the website.

Website

Thirty-two articles were published on the LIFT website in 2017, covering the latest news, good practices and events. The website was visited by almost 32,000 users, accounting for almost 48,000 sessions. Of these, around 14,000 had active interaction with the website, visiting on average 2.5 pages per session. The website achieves an average of 138 sessions (visits) per day.

The website's publications and guidelines page has been restructured in order to facilitate a better learning environment for users. The publications page is being re-organised by focus/thematic areas: climate change adaptation, financial inclusion, gender, inclusive value chains, migration, nutrition, security of land tenure, social protection and strengthening civil society. The changes will go live on LIFT's website in 2018 combined with easier navigation.

A photo essay story on the impact on farm mechanisation on a Delta rice farming family was profiled on the UNOPS website homepage. The article was also published on the LIFT website.

Social media

Facebook is an important communication platform in Myanmar and LIFT uses it to promote its activities to stakeholders. LIFT also uses Twitter to reach international audiences; 45 tweets were posted in 2017. The LIFT Facebook page achieved around 24,000 'likes' by the end of the year. In 2017, LIFT's Facebook page had 20 per cent more followers than at the beginning of the year. Posts that achieved the strongest engagement in 2017 included posts about LIFT's Chin programme launch in February, the State Counsellor's visit to Kyee Village in Pakokku on nutrition in January (43,000 people reached) and the launch of GRET's land tenure research book (almost 25,000 people reached). On average, there were seven Facebook posts per month.

Events and coverage

Events supported by the communications team in 2017 included the State Counsellor's visit

to Pakokku on nutrition, the Chin Programme launch in Hakha, LIFT Day 2017 in Sittwe, two migration project launches in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, the launch of the LIFT-commissioned Seed Study, Civil Society Research Forum event in Yangon, the rice sector development round table discussion in Patheingyi, the VisionFund microfinance branch opening ceremony in Lashio and GRET's land tenure research book launch. Local television and press coverage was achieved for many of these events. The Guardian published an article on the State Counsellor's meeting on nutrition in Pakokku <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jan/30/aung-san-su-kyi-launches-campaign-to-tackle-widespread-stunting-in-myanmar>.

In August, LIFT and 3MDG collaborated to host a nutrition 'First 1,000 Days' promotion event in People's Park Yangon during Breastfeeding Week. The event included a panel discussion on breastfeeding, and games and activities for mothers and their families who attended. MRTV-4 hosted a talkshow with the event's panellists about nutrition and continued to use the messaging about the importance of nutrition in the first 1,000 days in their broadcasts during August.

LIFT received media coverage in 2017 in Frontier news magazine (monthly features on the Rakhine Tatlan programme) The Myanmar Times, the Voice, Farmers Journal, MRTV, DVB, Thomas Reuters and regional newspapers. Key events in 2017 that received good coverage in media were the Chin programme launch in Hakha, UNESCO's launch of their Communications for Sustained Livelihoods and Food Security products and the 'First 1,000 Days' nutrition promotion event in Yangon during breastfeeding week.

9.0

Annexes

9.1

LIFT active projects and locations

In December 2017, LIFT was working in 14 states/regions, 56 districts, 216 townships in Myanmar. There are 21 countrywide projects.

	Number of Townships	Number of Districts	Number of States/regions
Total reached during LIFT operation	246	60	14
Current operational on 31 December 2017	216	56	14

State/Division	District	Townships
Ayeyarwady	1 Hinthada	Hinthada, Ingapu, Kyangin, Myanaung, Zalun, Lemyethna (6)
	2 Labutta	Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun (2)
	3 Maubin	Danubyu, Maubin, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw (4)
	4 Myaungmya	Einme, Myaungmya, Wakema (3)
	5 Pathein	Kangyidaunt, Kyonpyaw, Ngapudaw, Pathein, Thabaung, Kyaunggon, Yegyi (7)
	6 Pyapon	Bogale, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon (4)
Bago	7 Bago	Bago, Daik-U, Kawa, Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, Thanatpin, Waw, Kyauktaga (8)
	8 Taungoo	Htantabin, Taungoo, Yedashe, Oktwin, Phyu (5)
	9 Pyay	Paungde, Pyay, Shwedaung, Thegon (4)
	10 Thayarwady	Gyobingauk, Letpadan, Minhla, Monyo, Nattalin, Okpho, Thayarwady, Zigon (8)
Chin	11 Falam	Falam, Hakha, Tedim, Thantlang, Tonzang (5)
	12 Mindat	Matupi, Kanpetlet, Mindat, Paletwa (4)
Kachin	13 Bhamo	Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk, Shwegu (4)
	14 Mohnyin	Mogaung, Mohnyin (2)
	15 Myitkyina	Injyangyang, Myitkyina, Waingmaw (3)
	16 Puta-O	Machanbaw, Nawngmun, Puta-O, Sumprabum (4)
Kayah	17 Loikaw	Demoso, Loikaw, Hpruso (3)
Kayin	18 Hpa-An	Hlaingbwe, Hpa-An, Thandaunggyi, Bawgali, Lekitho (5)
	19 Kawkaeik	Kawkaeik, Kyainseikgyi (2)
	20 Hpapun	Hpapun (1)
	21 Myawaddy	Myawaddy (1)
Magway	22 Magway	Chauk, Magway, Myothit, Natmauk, Taungdwingyi, Yenangyaung (6)
	23 Minbu	Minbu, Pwintbyu, Salin, Sidoktaya (4)
	24 Pakokku	Myaing, Pakokku, Pauk, Seikphyu, Yesagyo (5)
	25 Thayet	Aunglan, Kamma, Sinbaungwe (3)
Mandalay	26 Kyaukse	Kyaukse, Myittha, Sintgaing, Tada-U (4)
	27 Mandalay	Amarapura, Poke Ba Thi Ri, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Mahaangmyay, Lewe, Pyinmana, Tatkon, Patheingyi, Pyigyitagon, Watt Htee Kann, Zay Yar Thi Ri, Za Bu Thi Ri, Oke Ta Ra Thi Ri, Aungmyaythazan (15)
	28 Meiktila	Mahlaing, Meiktila, Thazi, Wundwin (4)
	29 Myingyan	Kyaukpadaung, Myingyan, Natogyi, Ngazun, Taungtha (5)
	30 Nyaung-U	Nyaung-U (1)
	31 Pyinoolwin	Madaya, Pyinoolwin (2)
	32 Yamethin	Pyawbwe, Yamethin (2)

State/Division	District	Townships
Mon	33 Mawlamyine	Chaungzon, Kyaikmaraw, Mawlamyine, Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, Ye (6)
	34 Thaton	Bilin, Kyaikto, Thaton, Paung, Zinkyite (5)
Rakhine	35 Kyaukpyu	Ann, Kyaukpyu, Ramree (3)
	36 Maungdaw	Maungdaw (1)
	37 Sittwe	Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Sittwe (8)
	38 Thandwe	Gwa, Thandwe, Toungup (3)
Sagaing	39 Kale	Kale
	40 Mawlaik	Paungbyin
	41 Monywa	Ayadaw, Chaung-U, Monywa, Pale, Salingyi, Budalin, Yinmarbin (8)
	42 Sagaing	Myaung, Myinmu, Sagaing (3)
	43 Shwebo	Khin-U, Shwebo, Wetlet, Ye-U (4)
Shan	44 Kengtung	Kengtung (1)
	45 Monghpyak	Monghpyak (1)
	46 Tachileik	Tachileik, Tarlay (2)
	47 Kunlong	Kunlong (2)
	48 Kyaukme	Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Namtu, Nawngkhio (4)
	49 Lashio	Lashio (1)
	50 Laukkaing	Laukkaing (1)
	51 Loilen	Loilen (1)
	52 Muse	Kutkai (1)
	53 Taunggyi	Hopong, Hsihseng, Kalaw, Lawksawk, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Taunggyi, Ywangan, Aungban, Pekon (11)
Tanintharyi	54 Dawei	Dawei, Thayetchaung, Yebyu (3)
	55 Myeik	Myeik, Palaw (2)
Yangon	56 Yangon (East)	Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South), North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thaketa, Botahtaung, Dawbon, Mingalartaungnyunt, Thingangyun, Yankin, Tamwe (13)
	57 Yangon (North)	Hlaingtharya, Hlegu, Hmawbi, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyithar, Taikkyi (7)
	59 Yangon (West)	Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Kyauktan, Thanlyin, Twantay, Dala, Thongwa (7)
		Ahlone, Bayintnaung, Kyauktada, Lanmadaw, Mayangone, Sawbwagyigone, Hlaing, Kamaryut, Kyeemyindaing (9)

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 stand-pipes; 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 benefiting 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)

9.3

On-going projects in 2017

Organization/ Implementing Partner	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
ActionAid-Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development (SEDN)	Learning and Innovation	1,913,727	Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development
BBC Media Action	Migration	1,975,602	Kyat Chat: Making the Most of Migration and Money
CARE	Rakhine	964,463	M&E and Learning for Tat Lan Phase II
CARE	Rakhine	2,370,134	Supporting the food security, resilience and social cohesion of households and communities in Rathedaung Township
Catholic Relief Services	Uplands	1,813,203	Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE)
CCA	Financial Inclusion	3,000,000	“Myanmar: Financial Inclusion Expansion through Co-operatives” (MyFINANCE) project
CDN/Stichting ZOA	Uplands	3,640,000	Improving the incomes and nutrition outcomes of rural poor in Northern Kayin State
Choklei Organization for Rural and Agricultural Development (CORAD)	Uplands	2,204,212	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	Rakhine	2,648,223	Vocational Training and Livelihood Opportunities for in Camp and out of Camp Youth in Rakhine State
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 II
Gender Equality Network (GEN)	Civil Society	1,972,165	Deepening Commitment to Gender Equality in Myanmar
Golden Plain Livelihood Development Services Co-operative Ltd.	Dry Zone	729,636	Restoring Unproductive Soil to Get Sustainable Yield by Green Manuring & Modified Cropping System in Dry Zone
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	Learning and Innovation	1,053,864	Understanding rural land issues to engage comprehensive policy dialogue in Myanmar (LAND Project)
GRET (Small Grants)	Delta 3	2,119,898	Strengthening Civil Society in the Delta
HelpAge	Learning and Innovation	3,097,612	Strengthening the Ministry of Social Welfare to fulfil its Role in Expanding Social Protection
HelpAge	Dry Zone	4,200,000	Dry Zone Social Protection Project
IFC	Financial Inclusion	3,619,552	Capacity building for Inclusive Financial Sector
International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC)	Dry Zone	4,460,000	Dry Zone Agro-Input and Farm Services Project
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Migration	1,999,754	Development of Internal and International Labour Migration Governance
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Delta 3	749,100	Migration as a livelihood diversification strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)

Organization/ Implementing Partner	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Migration	1,999,217	Capitalizing human mobility for poverty alleviation and inclusive development in Myanmar (CHIME)
IRC	Rakhine	10,500,000	Tat Lan Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Phase II
IWMI	Dry Zone	1,100,015	Implementation of Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project
Karen Development Network (KDN)	Uplands	1,837,414	Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)
Land Consulting Group Co., Ltd.	Civil Society	1,699,466	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	Dry Zone	879,287	Community Based Social Protection System Efficacy and Efficiency of Pilot
Mercy Corps	Delta 3	4,338,197	Linking Laputta to Markets (LLM) Increasing Incomes through Agriculture, Skills, & Employment
Mercy Corps (in partnership with Swiss Contact)	Learning and Innovation	4,000,000	Making Vegetable Markets Work
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)
Michigan State University	Learning and Innovation	4,042,354	Agri-food Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor
Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)	Uplands	1,675,410	Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension, Nutritional Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State
Myanmar Professional Social Workers Association (MPSWA)	Dry Zone	782,432	Improved Nutritional Status of vulnerable community through self-help potential
PATH	Learning and Innovation	4,659,426	Introduction of Fortified Rice in Myanmar” Project
PGMF	Dry Zone	1,824,631	Cash Transfer Support for the Legacy Project (CTSL)
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
Radanar Ayar	Private Sector Engagement	216,325	Food Safety Project (Heineken)
Save the Children	Delta 3	3,253,390	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	Rakhine	10,300,000	Tat Lan Sustainable Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Phase II
Save the Children (LEARN II)	Extra Nutrition	1,175,790	Leveraging Essential Nutrition Actions to Reduce Malnutrition (LEARN) Phase 2
SwissAid (Small Grants)	Uplands	3,499,929	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	1,318,519	Soilless Horticulture and Other Water-saving Innovative Technologies for Landless and Marginal Farmers

Organization/ Implementing Partner	Funding Window	Budget (USD)	Project Title
UNESCO	Learning and Innovation	1,500,000	Communication for Sustained Livelihood and Food Security
UN-HABITAT	Dry Zone	4,400,000	A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities
Welthungerhilfe	Delta 3	4,602,329	Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development- Delta RISE
World Bank (Study II)	QSEM	1,100,000	Agricultural Policy Dialogue
World Fish	Learning and Innovation	3,284,592	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	1,560,138	Growing Livelihood in Bogale Project
Yoma Bank	Financial Inclusion	18,070,000	Yoma Bank Agri-Business Finance Program (Yoma Bank AFP)
IOM Consortium	Migration	6,475,839	Increasing Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership (G&P)
CARE International in Myanmar	Migration	3,985,643	Aung Myin Hmu Project - Industry Solutions for Safe Employment
EDEN	Migration	199,508	Eden Project to Rescue Migrant Women and Girls who have been Trafficked into Sexual Exploitation in Yangon
Pact Institute, Inc.	Dry Zone	2,199,500	Fund facilitator for the Dry Zone Small Grants
The Border Consortium (TBC)	Uplands	2,966,939	Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands (STAND UP)
Department of Social Welfare	Uplands	1,500,000	Implementation of a Grant in Myanmar provided by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund
Department of Social Welfare	Uplands	6,993,918	Maternal and Child Social Cash Transfer Programme in Chin State (MCCT Chin)
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Rakhine	1,494,983	Skills for Improvement of Livelihoods, Economic Opportunities and Security (TVET)
Vision Fund International	Migration	800,000	Financial Inclusion in the Garment Sector
Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS)	Civil Society	999,992	Strategic Partnership for Civil Society Empowerment (SPaCE)
Metta Development Foundation	Civil Society	992,935	A Strategic Partnership Proposal
NAG	Civil Society	999,831	Improved Co-Management of Ayeyarwady Wetland Resources
Save the Children	Uplands	3,954,618	Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement's Chin Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (TEAM MCCT)
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
Pact (MARC)	Financial Inclusion	7,327,324	Myanmar Access to Rural Credit through Institutional Strengthening (MARC)
Total (USD)		222,025,519	

Project activity charts

9.4.1 Important updates on 11 projects in 2017 in the Delta

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 GRET Small grant delivery and capacity building to township base CSOs</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,119,898 From 1/10/2016 to 30/06/2019 <i>Inception phase</i></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 were conducted and finalised in the six 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 in 5 townships in order to provide technical support to CSOs in their proposal development processes. ‡ 52 CSOs who are implementing livelihood-related interventions in 4 townships have been identified as eligible CSOs to apply for small grants, by TWG. GRET conducted proposal development workshop for those CSOs. ‡ The Small Grant Fund (SGF) Board was formed at the regional level to review, evaluate and approve the proposal of CSOs. ‡ 33 small grant proposals have been selected by SGF board and 17 proposals were contracted.
<p>2 IOM Migration as a Livelihood Diversification Strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)</p> <p>Budget: USD 749,100 From 15/12/2015 to 31/08/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project conducted a study on migration and development, generating knowledge for migration programming. The study will support LIFT stakeholders in safe migration programming in households that have migrant family members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A trainer's guide for Gainful Migration and Benefitting from Migration were developed in both English and Myanmar, pre-tested with CSOs partners, and reviewed by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP). ‡ IOM conducted train-the-trainer sessions for community rollout to partner CSOs and LIFT's Delta IPs. ‡ Detailed training plans were developed and reported to union-level MoLIP, Labour Exchange Offices, Township GADs in three townships in Delta. Trainings were delivered. ‡ 5,656 prospective migrants received Gainful Migration trainings and 2,941 families of migrants received Benefitting from Migration training in 142 villages. ‡ The first and second rounds of quantitative and qualitative data collection for the mixed method study were conducted in Shan, Rakhine, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady. ‡ Preliminary findings of the study were presented to the Minister and high-level officials of MOLIP, LIFT's Fund Board, FMO and IPs.
<p>3 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 From 06/04/2016 to 31/03/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></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"> ‡ In 2017, 15 village revolving fund committees (VRFC) were formed in 15 villages and provided grants for VRF operation. ‡ 611 beneficiaries received loans through VRF to initiate income generation activities such as fishery, livestock and small business. ‡ Exchange visits to Bogale, Htan Ta Bin and Kyaik Hto townships were conducted. 57 VRFC members participated and observed village revolving fund activities and self-help group activities of WHH, World Vison and SHG groups. ‡ 110 VRFC members received bookkeeping trainings. ‡ 60 livestock keepers received basic animal husbandry training in coordination with LBVD from Labutta Township. ‡ Project review workshops and lessons learned workshops were organised with VRFCs, beneficiaries and project staff. ‡ A mid-term evaluation of the project was conducted by a LIFT-contracted consultant in October 2017.
<p>4 Mercy Corps - Ar Yone Oo, Swiss Contact Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM) - Increasing Incomes through Agriculture, Skills, and Employment</p> <p>Budget: USD 4,338,197 From 01/10/2015 to 30/09/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project supports FPEs in service delivery (inputs supply, extension services, equipment rental, and hire purchase, access to credit, and collective selling with millers), provides the landless with vocational, business and life skills development, migration-related information, and facilitates linkages to Yangon-based employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 7 millers and traders provided 410 baskets of certified seed on credit to 198 farmers of 8 FPEs; which brings the total to 1,891 baskets contracted on credit to 791 farmers of 31 FPEs through agreements with 21 millers and traders since the start of the LLM program (the proposed cumulative target by year end 2017 is 3,260 baskets for 816 farmers). ‡ The number of dealers providing seed credit services to farmers increased from 2 to 7. They reached 21 FPEs (320 farmers) providing 3,675 bags of fertiliser on credit (USD 90,220 value). ‡ 56 FPEs (approx.1,288 farmers) used their own resources to ensure adequate facilities for collective paddy storage, and currently have stored 42,579 baskets that have an estimated value of 258,880,000 MMK (US\$ 197,620) and, if they sell six months from now will fetch an estimated sales price of 328,773,700 MMK (USD 250,975), a 27 per cent mark-up. ‡ Two additional FPEs started seed production and there are now three FPEs engaged in seed production as a small business. All three FPEs received registered seed on contract with local millers/traders. ‡ The multisector sub-working groups, Improving Access to Inputs and Post-harvest technologies, clarified priorities and identified next action steps for mobilisation. These are follow-up groups initiated after LLM's round table meeting on the rice sector in the lower Delta. ‡ 500 landless people completed skills training, bringing the total to 804 who have completed their training since the beginning of the LLM program; among them, 489 (61 per cent) are currently employed. ‡ A midterm review of the project was conducted by a LIFT M&E retainer in July.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 Metta Development Foundation Promotion of farmers-managed schemes for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development Budget: USD 803,942 From 07/04/2016 to 31/02/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project addresses problems faced by small and medium farmers hoping to increase their incomes by improving their agricultural yield quality and value. This is accomplished through farm advisory services, post-harvest management and collective storage with farmers associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 seed producer farmers attended seed production training organised by DoA's Seed Department of Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships. 77 seed producer farmers produced 3,198 baskets of certified and registered seeds for monsoon 2017. Sessions of farmer field school (FFS) were held according to the calendar with participation of 416 FFS farmers of Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships. 14 farmers groups were formed based on collective storage of paddy and seeds. 12 warehouses in Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun townships were established at village cluster level. Capacity building (social mobilisation, organisation development and community-based organisation) trainings were conducted for committee members of 12 groups. A midterm review of the project was conducted by an external consultant in October 2017.
<p>6 Radanar Ayar Integrated Agribusiness and Rural Development (IARD) From 06/04/2016 to 28/02/2019 Budget: USD 729,281 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 seed growers produced 222 baskets of registered seeds on 5 acres for the 2017 monsoon season. Total certified seed production for monsoon 2017 was 5,918 baskets. 106.7 baskets were assured for their quality through the collective assurance system and sold directly through farmer-to-farmer channels. 2,000 baskets of quality grain produced from the project's certified seeds were sold under collective selling earning MMK 2,000/basket more than market prices. A mid-term review of the project was conducted by an external consultant in October 2017.
<p>7 Save the Children Bright SUN: Building Resilience, Synergy Budget: USD 3,253,390 From 11/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></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"> • The project organised a mid-term project review workshop separately with Basic Health Staff (BHS) from DoH, SBCC and MCCT focal persons and project staff. As result, BHS have joined village level cash distribution and ANC services and health education for pregnant women. • Three trainings for BHS were conducted covering technical training on IYCF, 1,000 days, and social mobilisation. • 2,395 pregnant women were enrolled in 2017 (4,607 is the cumulative total), and 37,646 cash transfers were delivered to the beneficiaries in 2017 (49,724 cumulatively). • During 2017, the project increased the monthly cash transfer from MMK 10,000 MMK to MMK 15,000. • Cash transfers through Wave Money transfer has been initiated in 32 targeted villages for a total of 800 women. • In 2017, 1,746 SBCC sessions (2,621 cumulative) on IYCF, ANC and PNC, WASH and health seeking behaviours were conducted by SBCC focal persons. 17,037 participants (4,607 targeted mothers and 12,430 other villagers) attended the sessions in 2017 (25,921 participants cumulative). • Nutrition Week Campaigns and Global Hand Washing Day Campaigns were conducted in collaboration with Township Health Departments, Rural Health Centres and Sub-Rural Health Centre. • A mid-term review of the project conducted by LIFT retainer in May 2017.
<p>8 Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Delta Rural Intensification for Sustainable Economic Development- Delta RISE <i>Budget: USD 3,896,564</i> <i>From 01/10/2015 to 30/09/2018</i> <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project supports producer organisations (PO) with capacity building and organisational structuring. The producer organisations then provide services to farmers with information on quality seeds and inputs, collective storage, equipment rental and hire purchase, and post-harvest and marketing. The project provides support to landless and vulnerable households for off-farm local livelihood activities (horticulture, livestock, and aquaculture) and creating and maintaining small-scale business. The project oversees the promotion and dissemination of improved nutrition and basic hygiene practices among all target groups with a focus on mothers and children during the critical 1,000 days window, and households needing subsistence security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,974 farmers and landless are members of functional producer groups. 64.26 tonnes of local quality seeds produced 4,118 farmers reached by agricultural extension services 931 households with increased income from non-paddy activities 4,893 small businesses using financial services for business purposes 1,275 loans granted by SPCS (Small Producers Credit Services) to landless, totalling MMK 206,730,000 VRF (Village revolving funds) loaned MMK 336,817,783 to farmers and landless in 52 villages 2,717 households directly reached with nutritional information (implementation of LANN methodology) and 2,218 with indirect activities (sensitisation campaigns) A mid-term review of the project was conducted by LIFT M&E retainer in August 2017.

	IP and project details	Important updates
9	<p>WorldFish 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)</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,284,000 From 21/09/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project supports the engagement of 5,000 smallholder farmers in farm research and development, and the scaling-up of small-scale homestead-based aquaculture (pond, cage, and rice-field) in the Ayeyarwady Delta and central Dry Zone. An additional 5,000 households will be reached in the scaling-up phase through the production and sharing of knowledge and learning materials from the target villages and national partners, particularly micro-finance partners and the government's rural development fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Total 79 farmer groups (1572 farmers) were formed across 152 villages in the Delta and Dry Zone. ‡ The project facilitated access for small-scale aquaculture (SSA) farmers to micro-credit. GRET established a total of 13 savings funds; PACT groups were linked with the village development funds and NAG beneficiaries with Proximity Design and the cooperative bank. ‡ The Dedaye DoF hatchery, upgraded by the project, produced 500,000 silver barb fries that were distributed to nursery farmers and SSA farmers in the Delta. ‡ A total of 136,005 fingerlings from new and existing nurseries were raised and stocked by a 352 SSA farmers. ‡ Three new feed mills were established by the project in 2017. So far, 32 feed mills have been established and 28 are operating at full capacity. A total of 85,320 kg of pellets was produced and sold to 1,581 farmers. ‡ A mid-term review of the project was conducted by LIFT M&E retainer in June 2017.
10	<p>World Vision International Myanmar Growing livelihood in Bogale</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,560,138 From 08/09/2015 to 31/12/2018</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"> ‡ 240 young people were selected, for vocational training including Safe Migration training (the curricula of IOM). 188 people (87 male and 101 female) attending training on tailoring, mechanics and driving, hospitality, and nursing. ‡ Improve Your Business (IYB) ToT training for CBO members was conducted to support women entrepreneurship and business development of women at village level. ‡ 203 women from landless and marginal households from 30 villages received Generate Your Business/Start Your Business training, and they developed business plan for their business. According to the criteria, 115 women received grants for business activities. ‡ 72 pig producer groups were formed with 500 members in 30 villages. ‡ 68 VSLA (Village Saving and Loans Associations) groups are active with 1135 members (89 per cent are women), with a total savings of around MMK 77 million. ‡ 33 Community Health Workers received refresher course training on Community-based IYCF and WASH trainings. ‡ Nutrition campaigns were conducted in township and villages in collaboration with Township Public Health Department, BHS, CHW and CBOs. ‡ 2,140 people were reached with nutritional information programming and activities. ‡ Community Disaster Management Preparedness Plans were finalised for 11 high risk villages.
11	<p>NAG Strategic partnership-Improved Co-management for the Ayeyarwady wetland resources</p> <p>Budget: USD 999,831 From April 2017 to June 2019</p>	<p>The project promotes co-management models of land freshwater fishery resources and focuses on key policy areas such as fishery community rights, natural resources protection, land use allocation and livelihood development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 101 villages selected for fishery resources co-management of 17 clusters in 11 townships of Ayeyarwady Region. ‡ Project baseline survey conducted among 378 households and 28 villages at 11 townships. ‡ Meeting with union and regional level about new Marine Fishery Law and Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Laws conducted. ‡ Public consultation, review and sharing workshops on Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law were organised in 4 township of Ayeyarwady Region. ‡ Reached agreement with Department of Fishery's Research and Development Department for upgrading the Pyapon Fishery Training Centre and curriculum.

9.4.2

Important updates on 14 projects in 2017 in the Dry Zone

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 ActionAid Myanmar Social Economic Development Network for Regional Development (SEDN)</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,913,717 From 08/03/2013 to 28/02/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEDN project was extended by 2 years with additional budget to finalise the institutional building of the women's producer group and support the setup of their social enterprise. 209 active producers are working in 52 villages across Pakokku and Myaing townships A venue to produce quality for overseas exports (export production house) was established at Kyit Tee village in Myaing Township. Four overseas orders were filled by 15 selected women producers. 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 shopping and promotion centre is in progress. One branch of MBoutik shop was established in Yangon. The total sale in 2017 was MMK 90,000,000 (USD 66,421), 12 per cent more than planned.
<p>2 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: 4,400,000 From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></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"> New Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) regulation, including more skills training and a new regulatory framework were approved nationwide and are being operationalised with project support. Based on the project's work the government has initiated a National Livestock Baseline Survey, which is currently implemented across the country. The project supports reduction of barriers in trade policies in close collaboration with the private sector. The project expanded the work with University of Veterinary Science by involving students in field surveys. The project introduced tablet-based online data management for LBVD staff during the livestock baseline survey. Activities related to cattle feeding, bull mating records, goat fattening, goat breeding, boar management and pig breeding sows were piloted with selected key farmers across six townships.
<p>3 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 729,636 From 09/05/2016 to 31/10/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This project is working in 42 villages in Pakokku and Yesagyo Townships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2017monsoon season, 16 demonstration plots were established (eight plots in each township) to compare the results of green manure. 35 farmer field days were organised at these sites. Seed shortages motivated 134 farmers to produce seeds (only 18 were supported by the project) Because of the shortage of sunnhemp seeds 2,935 farmer grew other crops as green manure.
<p>4 HelpAge International Dry Zone Social Protection Project</p> <p>Budget: USD 4,200,000 From 17/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village development committee (VDC) and social protection committee (SPC) forming processes were completed in 180 project villages. Grants for an average of 688 people aged over 85 were provided in 180 project villages until April 2017. After May, when the government's pension to people over 90 years began, grants were provided for people age between 85 and 90 years. In January 2017, the project started cash transfers to people with disabilities and 2,339 people received the cash transfer. 360 trained social care volunteers (two volunteers per village) were trained to work in villages supporting elderly and people with disabilities. After a vulnerability-mapping exercise 180 villages prepared and submitted social protection action plan, and 159 villages are in the process of implementing social protection activities. These activities include four types of mobility aids: eyeglasses, walking sticks, four-legged walking aid and crutches. 8,052 older people and people with disabilities (3,067 male and 4,985 female) received mobility aids. 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. In 2017, 57 households utilised emergency loans. 17,284 HHs benefitted from low-interest loans. A study on community-based mechanisms for social protection was published. A study on cash transfer for social protection purposes is ongoing. Government officials, including village and village tract administrators, received training on social protection and the cash transfer process. This training was put into practice by helping the VDCs and social protection committees transfer cash to older people and people with disabilities. The project developed a cash transfer handbook for use by the project team, village committees and local government.

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 4,460,000 From 01/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 153 demonstration plots (88 winter season, 20 pre-monsoon, 45 monsoon crops) were established. 61 farmer field days associated with harvest were conducted. USD 396,000 was provided to 55 inputs and service providers as business enhancement grants. In 2017, a total of 196 day-long farmer training sessions were held in the six targeted townships to train 12,028 farmers. 146 DOA extension staff and student interns participated in the farmer training, demonstration plots and field days. A total of 12,028 farmers (3,950 females) who attended farmer training received a MMK 13,000 Kyat (USD 10). Input vouchers totalling MMK 156,400,000 (USD 115,424) were disbursed. Inputs and services providers (ISP) meetings were held in all six townships. ISP sub-groups and an ISP Cooperative Association were formed. Seven ISPs from three townships participated in the New Holland field day service training. A fertiliser quality assessment was conducted in the six project townships.
<p>6 Lodestar Co., Ltd. / Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPRG) Community-based Social Protection System Efficacy and Efficiency of Pilot</p> <p>Budget: USD 879,287 From 03/06/2015 to 06/06/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of number of 1,668 women/children under 2 years of age received MCCT grants in 2017. 21 villages received the social protection training and seed funds. The seed funds investment yielded MMK 52 million (USD 38,376) worth of social assistance in 2017. MCCT to pregnant women and children aged under 2 was established in all 40 project villages. A project review workshop was held in December 2017 in Myaung Township attended by parliamentarians, government and 40 community organisations.
<p>7 Myanmar Professional Social Worker Association (MPSWA) Improved Nutritional Status of Venerable Community through Self-help Potential</p> <p>Budget: USD 782,432 From 07/04/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 community-based nutrition promotion groups (CBNPGs) were formed to support the project's activities. 426 members of 90 CBNPGs received orientation on the project purpose and activities and most received capacity building to lead and motivate their communities to adopt positive nutrition packages. A nutrition behaviour change communication (Nut-BCC) activity was implemented in all 90 project villages. The most active and motivated 20 CBNPGs were selected to implement small-scale, nutrition-related development plans. In 2017, MPSWA nutrition mobilisers conducted 973 community nutrition awareness raising sessions with 43,321 beneficiaries. 444 children's nutrition awareness-raising sessions were held with 28,983 children. CBNPGs monitored the growth of 1,494 children aged under two. In cases of malnutrition CBNPGs provide extra support to the mothers. Some CBNPGs provide extra food to those children. If the condition of child is not improving CBNPG encourage parents to consult with BHS. 2,957 pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and mothers with children under two years of age participated in 406 small focus group meetings to share their experiences and learn together.
<p>8 Save the Children LEGACY Learning, Evidence Generation, and Advocacy for Catalysing Policy</p> <p>Budget: USD 4,942,842 From 11/12/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, the area of intervention was expanded to an additional 50 villages in PGMF's model. In May 2017, Save the Children conducted a cost of diet analysis and in October, the MCCT amount is increased from MMK 10,000 (USD 7) to MMK 15,000 (USD 11). Community infant and young child feeding counselling training was provided to project field staff in July 2017, and replicated by the field staff to the 482 volunteers (420 women and 62 men) from the SBCC+MCCT villages in August 2017. IPA and LIFT conducted mid-term evaluation of the project in 2017. According to the midline survey by IPA, 99.7 per cent of women reported that they made the decisions about how the cash was spent.
<p>9 Terre des Hommes (TdH) Soilless Horticulture and Other Water-Saving Innovative Technologies for Landless and Marginal Farmers</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,318,519 From 01/02/2014 to 31/07/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project received a no-cost extension for 18 months from February 2017 to July 2018. 14 villages were selected in Myingyan and Taungtha townships. A total of 416 farmers (72 women) were trained in greenhouse construction through 97 training sessions. After providing three-day greenhouse construction training hydroponic and drip irrigation systems were established in every target village. A new design (Zig-Zag) that needs less water was introduced under the no-cost extension period. Producer groups were formed in each village. For commercial purpose, 0.88 acres extensive drip irrigation plot was established in Myingyan Township. By selling 3,853 kg of vegetables the project earned MMK 945,095 (USD 697) from the extensive drip irrigation plot.
<p>10 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,104,905 From 01/2014 to 06/2017 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Workshops organised during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practices in mung bean (green gram) seed production, quality control and maintenance Business management of custom hiring of agricultural machinery in Myanmar's Dry Zone Multi-stakeholder dialogue on strengthening local capacities for climate-resilient agriculture in the Dry Zone Multi-stakeholder dialogue on scaling-up interventions for sustainable agriculture development in the Dry Zone Workshop on participatory rural appraisal Local planning support for climate-resilient agriculture

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>11 UN-Habitat A short step from improved WASH to healthier communities</p> <p>Budget: USD 4,400,000 From 15/02/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 212 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) committees were formed and trained (2,132 committee members) ‡ 157 villages started the implementing drinking water supply facility construction/renovation and construction of demonstration low-cost fly-proof latrines ‡ 66 trainings for building fly-proof latrine were conducted ‡ In 2017, 212 hand washing day community events and 212 world toilet day community events were organised. ‡ The estimated population benefiting from improved water supplies, training and latrines is 138,053 at end of 2017.
<p>12 PACT Dry Zone small grant fund for civil society</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,199,500 From 1/03/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Pact 3 rounds of proposal submissions, coming from Nyaung U, Pakoku, Yaezagyo, Salin, Kyauk Pa Taung, Seik Phyu, and Taung Thar. ‡ Pact received 49 proposal submissions for CRGs (cost reimbursable grant) and 107 for FAA (fixed amount agreements). ‡ Pact approved 22 CRGs and 23 FAAs. All these grants will be awarded by March 2018. ‡ The proposals of round three, are currently in the selection process and will be selected by early March.
<p>13 IWMI Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project Rehabilitation</p> <p>Budget USD 1,122,315 From 06/12/2016 to 31/03/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A public inception meeting was held on-site in February 2017 with 45 local stakeholders including scheme management team, regional government officials, and farmers. ‡ A pre-baseline survey and a household survey were conducted to understand current agricultural practices, land holdings, alternate water sources, scheme access, operation and challenges. 493 farmers were interviewed including irrigators and non-irrigators, from all project villages. ‡ Two coordination meetings with IWUMD were organised in Nay Pyi Taw. ‡ Participatory mapping of field canals and irrigation structures (gates) was completed in collaboration with IWUMD. ‡ A trial was established in May 2017, in Pyawt Ywar village, to demonstrate the use of pellet fertiliser for summer paddy. ‡ WHH team introduced six new non-rice crops: bitter melon, turmeric, papaya, ash gourd, eggplant and chili. First results are positive and farmers will continue growing these crops.
<p>14 UNOPS Pyawt Ywar Pump Irrigation Project Rehabilitation</p> <p>Budget USD 3,900,000 From 07/2017 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>In 2017, these activities took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Remodeling of the main canal with replacement of soil ‡ Partial concrete lining on the main canal ‡ Stone masonry lining on the main canal ‡ Construction of fall/drop on the main canal systems ‡ Repairing/replacement of irrigation canal gates ‡ Upgrading of pump houses

Important updates on 6 projects in 2017 in Rakhine

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 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 From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ A goat bank was established and 70 Muslim and 90 ethnic Rakhine people purchased locally-reared goats with LIFT's support. ‡ 92 Muslim and 105 ethnic Rakhine people participated in livestock management training. ‡ Training was conducted by the township Livestock, Veterinary and Breeding Department with the support of the project. ‡ Women's participation in these activities was high. ‡ The violence of August 2017 put a hold to all of these operations. The Government of Myanmar suspended all access to the area.
<p>2 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 From 01/06/2016 to 31/05/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></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. ‡ To date, 1,647 trainees (53 per cent women) have completed short courses on life skills. ‡ 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. ‡ So far, 410 young people (50 per cent women) have completed mobile vocational skills training. ‡ More Muslim women have expressed interest in joining the training program to learn new skills and establish businesses. ‡ Vocational training for Muslim and Buddhist villagers in northern Rakhine was also just getting off the ground with a first batch of trainees graduating. ‡ The violence in August 2017 put a hold to all efforts in northern Rakhine. The Government of Myanmar suspended all access to the area.
<p>3 PACT Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)</p> <p>Budget: USD 8,300,000 From 14/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></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 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 From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</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 260 km of embankments to protect 33,204 acres of paddy fields and provided training on new agricultural techniques. ‡ In Myebon and Minbya, over 77 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. ‡ 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 6,640-11,068 households, who experienced an income from USD 100 to USD 300 per acre. For 32,890 acres, this translates into an estimated averaged increased income of USD 6.6 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. To date, 37,170 workers were employed and more than 55 per cent were women. Women and men receive equal pay. ‡ Since 2013, LIFT has supported village saving and loan associations (VSLA) in Rakhine. ‡ LIFT's investment has supported the creation of 371 VSLA groups across 203 villages that saved more than USD 1.3 million and borrowed around USD 2.3 million. ‡ The repayment rate is 87 per cent and 82 per cent of beneficiaries are women. ‡ Financial literacy programming is a priority for the VSLA programme, with 11,353 beneficiaries (M 3,303; F 8,050). Specific financial literacy tools are designed for children and youth using graphic novels and children's storybooks with financial education themes. ‡ The most striking achievement for this reporting period is the full roll-out of the nutrition component of LIFT's Tat Lan project. ‡ An additional 102 villages and two towns in Minbya and Myebon are now covered. To date, more than 10,743 pregnant women and mothers in Rakhine have received maternal and child cash transfers of MMK 15,000. ‡ 28,046 women and mothers of children under two are reached with awareness raising activities on nutritious feeding practices during pregnancy and after childbirth. ‡ Tat Lan's nutrition intervention has proven to contribute to increased knowledge of the importance of exclusively breastfeeding babies up to six months, with an increase from 28 per cent to 59 per cent of households demonstrating knowledge of age appropriate nutrition diet.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 ILO Skills for Improvement of Livelihoods, Economic Opportunities and Security</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,494,983 From 04/07/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! 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. ! Terms of Reference were completed for Labour Market Assessment, and the Assessment of Government Technical Institutes (GTIs) and Government Technical High Schools (GTHS). ! Tendering process for the assessments was finalised. Two consulting firms to support the project in conducting the studies in close partnership with Rakhine State public and private sector counterparts were selected to start work in early 2018.
<p>6 Mercy Corps (in partnership with Swiss Contact) Making Vegetable Markets Work (MVMW) for the Poor</p> <p>From 06/2016 to 31/03/2017 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! In 2017, the project completed market maps for the vegetable sector in Rakhine. The project's voucher program encouraged 254 farmers to adopt new agricultural technology and quality inputs. 89 demonstration plots with 74 key farmers were established. ! The project trained 113 extension staff from the Department of Agriculture, including staff from Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships in northern Rakhine, on good agricultural practices.

Important updates on 12 projects in 2017 in the Uplands

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre) Agroforestry Alternatives to Shifting Cultivation in Myanmar</p> <p>Budget: USD 400,470 From 22/10/2014 to 28/02/2017 <i>Closed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Two agroforestry demonstration plots were established in Chin and Shan States and planted with nitrogen-fixing trees with the support of local partners: Ar Yone Oo (AYO) and Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI). ‡ The demonstration plots have been officially transferred to local Forest User Groups. ‡ ICRAF released a study report about wild mushroom in agroforestry plots, their potential for consumption and marketing. ‡ Local communities have been trained in identifying local mushrooms and introduced to mushroom production.
<p>2 TAG International Plan Bee: Introduction and Expansion of Modern Beekeeping and Honey Production in Shan State</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,869,967 Extended, From 23/10/2013 to 30/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ The project was extended for two years in order to institutionalise the Plan Bee TVET program, expand honey sales to foreign markets and develop the governance and local ownership of the Apiculture and Resource Business Center (ARBC). ‡ The ARBC was restructured and renamed: Plan Bee Social Enterprise (PBSE). ‡ The project trained 135 beekeepers who currently own 1,978 hives and are the primary suppliers of honey to the PBSE. ‡ By December 2017, the total value of honey sales by the beekeepers trained reached a total of MMK 7,189,430 (USD 5,306) for a production of 39.8 tons. ‡ In 2017, the microenterprise program received a total MMK 1,661,000 (USD1,266) income from product sales. ‡ 326 beneficiaries (137 female) have increased their income through beekeeping-related activities with the project. ‡ The PBSE signed an agreement with Taw Win Zarmani (TWZ) Company Ltd to become the main distributor for retail sales in Myanmar. ‡ The PBSE was able to export honey to China (5.41 tons), Hong Kong (0.5 tons) and Japan (10.92 tons).
<p>3 Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE)</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,813,203 From 07/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Barrier Analysis (BA) for Agriculture and Nutrition Behaviors: PACE conducted formative research and produced a report analysing the barriers and enablers of four key agriculture and nutrition practices. ‡ 17 Field Agents (FAs) followed a training of trainer about key messaging and facilitation practices for maize and bean production, and for home gardening. ‡ 15 illustrated training documents describing best seed selection, cultivation and storage practices were developed. ‡ 65 producer demonstration groups (PDGs) were established in 60 villages to lead experimentation on maize and bean crops. ‡ 3,612 farmers have followed the six maize and bean training modules. ‡ 25 Karuna Mother Groups were established with 174 lead mothers. ‡ The lead mothers have been trained in the modules 1 and 2 of Essential Nutrition and Hygiene Actions (EN/HA). Each group had 8 training sessions. ‡ Lead mothers are counselling 1,493 neighbouring women. ‡ 82 local community leaders participated to nutrition awareness workshops for them to support the promotion of EN/HA messages in their communities. ‡ A cooking demonstration facilitation guide and recipe cards for enriched porridge was developed. Lead mothers were trained to use these tools.
<p>4 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 From 14/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 215 village facilitators (female: 67) were trained to support agriculture extension activities at village level. ‡ 74 farmer-field-schools and demonstration plots were established by village facilitators to test and demonstrate best agronomic practices for paddy seed production (21), SRI (21), slash and mulch (15) and fertility management (17). ‡ 3,446 farmers (female: 1363) were trained in seed selection and multiplication, IPM, SRI, compost, natural pesticide production and agro-forestry techniques. ‡ One inter-professional workshop was organised for each of the following value chains: onion, grape, elephant foot yam and tree bean to complement and validate results of value chain research. ‡ 11 producer groups were established to work on collective value chain interventions based on market assessments and the results of inter-professional workshops. ‡ A survey and barrier analysis was conducted in 30 villages about nutritious crop availability in home gardens and fields, and the nutrition behavior and the diet diversity of 900 farming households. ‡ 110 women received seed kits to test new vegetable production. ‡ 1,910 women were trained on basic nutrition principles and 1,946 people (female: 1,251) participated in food preparation demonstration in 59 villages. ‡ 114 farmers (46 Female) were trained on keeping financial records according to the management advise for family farm (MAFF) methodology.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) including Cordaid and World Concern Myanmar Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,640,000 From 06/07/2016 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA) was conducted in the project area of Thandaunggyi township and a report published. 386 participants (324 female) participated in 209 awareness sessions on basic nutrition, hygiene and sanitation principles including cooking competitions. All 50 mother-to-mother group focal points and the 50 nutrition focal points received two training sessions to enable them to provide nutrition trainings in their communities. 365 mother-to-mother group meetings were held in 40 villages by the mother group focal points in which the same messages from the community nutrition training were reinforced. Monthly growth monitoring sessions for under-fives took place. Materials for 110 latrines and 227 water purifiers were distributed in target villages, schools and churches. 581 home garden manuals, 40 vinyl posters were distributed as a visual aid for home garden training and promotion. 30 DoA extension staff (10 women) were trained on home gardening. 200 households were trained on home gardening and received home gardening inputs, including seeds and garden tools. Water source mapping, surveys and measurements, and cost calculations for the construction of gravity flow water systems were completed in 10 selected villages. 8 WASH committees were formed and focal points trained for construction supervision and maintenance. Selected seedlings were procured and delivered to 2,979 households in 96 villages who have been trained about nursery management, planting methods and best agronomic practices. A cardamom value chain assessment was conducted and presented during a multi-stakeholder validation workshop. A multi-stakeholder platform to support the cardamom value chain was formed including producers, traders and government officials, and convened for nine workshops and meetings. 40 returnee households received 5 hand tractors to support their land preparation for paddy cultivation. 1.57 km of motorbike paths were constructed.
<p>6 Karen Development Network (KDN) Enhanced Livelihoods for Displaced People (ELDP)</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,837,414 From 04/07/2016 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vulnerability assessment was carried out with 254 households from 9 target villages. A labour market need assessment was conducted and the results published. The construction of the Community Vocational Training Centre was completed in Thayet Chaung township. The centre is ready to launch 6 new vocational courses in 2018 on masonry, carpentry, mechanics, bakery, weaving and sewing. Village Development Committees were established in all 33 target villages and 17 of them produced a village development plan. A paddy bank was formed in 8 villages and 6 storage facilities were under construction. 215 people (191 female) have started saving money in 11 newly established village saving and loan associations in 10 villages.
<p>7 Metta Development Foundation Uplands Food Security and Participation in Markets (UFS-PM)</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,123,168 From 17/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 producer groups were established in Kachin and Shan States. 1,762 farmers (568 female) have participated in farmer-field-schools about groundnut and mustard production for organic oil production. 932 farmers (318 female) received quality seeds and inter-cultivators for the production of groundnut, mustard or soybean. The construction of 6 oil processing factories was completed and they are operational. 7 production management committees were formed for joint ownership, management of the mills and marketing locally-produced, high quality oil. 26 forest user groups were formed and all have initiated the process of community forest certificate application. 10 tree nurseries were established. 574 forest users in 26 villages were trained in farmer-field-schools on agro-forestry. 381 farmers (152 female) received elephant foot yam seeds. Ginger and turmeric were planted on over 117 acres of community forest. A natural resource management planning team was formed in 14 villages in order to strengthen land tenure security.
<p>8 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 From 14/06/2016 to 31/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of aquaculture in Chin was published. A study of the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding gender and nutrition in Chin State was published. Monthly food production and consumption calendars were developed in 24 villages. A farming system analysis was conducted. 24 village facilitators followed a training of trainers on vegetable production, good nutrition behaviours and nutritious recipes. 17 farmer-field-schools were established with a demonstration plot for nutritious vegetable production and drip irrigation system. A vegetable demonstration plot was established in the state agriculture institute in Chin State for student practice. A review of aquaculture practices in one village was completed and training followed in 25 villages. A demonstration aquaculture pond was installed. A series of trainings about nutrition-sensitive agriculture and agricultural extension approaches were provided to students and teachers of 14 State Agricultural Institutes across the country and Yezin Agricultural University.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>9 SWISSAID Uplands Small-Grants Fund for Civil Society</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,499,929 From 29/07/2016 to 30/11/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A baseline mapping of civil society was conducted in each township. Grant approval committees were set up and trained in each of the 5 funding areas. Information workshops were organised in each township about funding opportunities. 118 proposals were submitted and screened by area fund teams. 54 grants were contracted to 51 civil society groups in 15 townships. Capacity building for proposal design and financial management was provided to potential grantees.
<p>10 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 From 09/03/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSW has recruited 24 Case Managers for Chin State, based at township level, as well as 1 District Coordinator and 1 State Coordinator to manage the programme, and a management team in Nay Pyi Taw. A committee and a taskforce were formed with members from the Department of Social Welfare, National Nutrition Committee, Health Literacy Promotion Unit, Save the Children, LIFT and UNICEF to lead the nutrition social and behavior change communication strategy. An M&E committee and taskforce were established in DSW. A baseline survey was conducted in September - October by Myanmar Survey Research, before cash transfers began. 52 people from GAD and health facilities as well as 1,163 villages/wards administrators were trained about the MCCT operational manual. Village/Ward Social Protection Committees were formed in 1,430 villages/wards. 1,124 midwives and auxiliary midwives from 9 townships were trained on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices based on ToT and cascading trainings at township level and received specific communication materials for conducting sessions at village level. Regular monthly nutrition awareness sessions had started in a few villages and wards by the end of the year. The registration of beneficiaries started in June 2017 and the first cash transfer payment to mothers started in October to 8,515 beneficiaries. The second payment in November reached 10,678 beneficiaries and the third payment end of December, 13,383 beneficiaries. The first round of post-distribution monitoring started in December.
<p>11 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 From 11/07/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Inception period</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save the Children supported the SBCC Committee formed by DSW (see above) to formulate an interim SBCC strategy for the Chin Nutrition MCCT programme. The monitoring methodology and 10 types of questionnaires were developed, translated and agreed with DSW. All project M&E team have been trained in using the tools. The project is supporting the first round of data collection for DSW post-distribution monitoring, data entry and analysis.
<p>12 The Border Consortium (TBC) Sustainable Transformation for Agriculture, Nutrition and Development in Uplands (STAND UP)</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,966,939 From 01/05/2017 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC provides grants and technical support to eight local partner organisations that deliver nutrition, natural resource management and agriculture services in 10 townships in Kayin, Mon States and Thaninthryi region. So far the project supported interventions in 49 villages across 29 village tracts. TBC assessed the management and technical capacities of each local partner for developing organisational development plans. Training about nutrition awareness was provided to KDHW, BPHWT and KWO staff. HURFOM consulted the Department for Land Management and Statistics about the procedure for land reclamation, organised consultation workshops with community leaders from two village tracts about the confiscation of ancestral farmlands, and trained 233 people from 4 villages about government land administration system. It supported the village tract committees to survey their farmlands for land use certificate application. HURFOM supported community leaders in one village tract to form community forestry committees, establish a tree nursery and apply for the formal recognition of their ancestral lands with the township's Forestry Department. KESAN facilitated discussions with community leaders and KNU authorities in two townships about establishing a network of customary landowners. KESAN supported watershed management committees in 6 villages to establish fish conservation zones. KESAN supported the installation of micro-hydropower stations in four villages in two townships. KESAN supported the construction of agricultural water supply systems in five villages. KORD facilitated the formation of five community forest management committees concerning 225 households. KORD is supporting the rehabilitation of irrigation canals in 3 villages that will benefit 772 households. KORD facilitated the formation of watershed management committees in three villages for the sustainable use of streams and establishing fish sanctuaries. TRIPNET works in two village tracts for watershed management planning. KDHW conducts nutrition surveillance and supplementary feeding in nine village tract health centers which serve 2,563 households. BPHWT conducted 5 nutrition awareness workshops focused on infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF). BPHWT organised WASH awareness workshops with 286 villagers. KWO disseminated information, education and campaign (IEC) materials about IYCF across 45 nursery schools, including 2,029 children. KWO conducted 4 gender awareness workshops with 95 participants (62 women).

9.4.5

Important updates on 6 projects in 2017 in the Migration Programme

	IP and project details	Important updates
1	<p>BBC Media Action Kyat Chat: Making the Most of Migration and Money</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,975,602 From 01/10/2016 to 31/03/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed a radio programme on how media can inform decisions about migration and financial management. The programme includes 48 weekly episodes of a nationally-broadcast radio program. Key themes are receiving, saving, and investing remittances and practical information on migration risk and opportunities through the voices of contributors in feature stories highlighting both the positive and negative impacts of migration on families and individuals. 16 episodes have been transmitted to date.
2	<p>ILO Development of Internal and International Labour Migration Governance</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,999,754 From 01/02/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population (MoLIP), to improve international employment standards, focusing specifically on recruitment processes, complaint mechanisms and welfare systems which would provide migrants and their families with protection in critical situations. ILO facilitated an intense dialogue on the revised Law related to Overseas Employment between the government, the private sector and civil society. Over 100 parliamentarians engaged in a lively consultation on internal and international labour migration and requested more roundtable discussions. A zero draft for the revision of the Law related to Overseas Employment was completed. A new draft law was sent to the Attorney General for review. A total of 437 (278W:M159) state and regional government officials and local CSOs in Patheingyi, Keng Tung, Yangon, Sittwe, Nay Pyi Daw and Mandalay attended trainings on recruitment processes, internal migration and legal protection of domestic workers. On the request of MoLIP, a brief pilot training was designed for labour attachés to support and protect international migrants. The project is actively involved in supporting the GoM for the development of the National Plan of Action on Labour Migration (2018 – 2023). The project also supported Myanmar government officials to actively contribute to the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers completed in 2017.
3	<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 From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the mixed method survey, the quantitative and qualitative teams in Shan, Rakhine, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady collected the data for the first round of data collection between February and March. Both qualitative and quantitative teams conducted the second round of data collection between May and July. IOM met with the University of Mandalay, the University of Taunggyi and Patheingyi University and introduced them to the study and discussed future collaborations. IOM presented a summary of the preliminary findings of the research to the Minister, Permanent Secretary and Director General of MoLIP in November. The consortium presented the preliminary findings to the LIFT Fund Board, Fund Management Office and the Implementation Partners of the LIFT Migration Programme in December. The consortium organised post-study consultation workshops in December in each of the four target states and regions, inviting a wide range of stakeholders with whom the study engaged prior to the data collection.
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 From 01/01/2017 to 30/06/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners (except PGMF) set-up project offices in their respective areas, and all agreements with the partners were signed effective as from February 2017. A total of 656 villages in 30 townships in 7 states and regions were identified based on common criteria. To date, activities have been implemented in 314 villages in Chin, Mon, Shan States and Dry Zone. The project has been working with 33 local CSO partners in the target areas in the implementation of village level activities. Overall, the consortium was able to recruit a total of 87 staff (35 male and 52 female), which were all positions planned to be recruited under the project. Capacity building interventions were carried out to improve the knowledge and capacity of project staff and partners on project-specific resource management and thematic issues. The Twe Let project launch was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 March and was attended by over 80 people representing various stakeholders. IOM took the lead in preparing the pre-migration curriculum and trainer's guide development process. IOM delivered a master TOT on the pre-migration outreach to partners, and co-organised four field TOTs in target areas. Village pre-migration trainings started in November in Mon State, Shan State and the Dry Zone, benefitting 4,424 people through 165 trainings in the target villages. CHRO facilitated Safe Migration Promoter's trainings, Migration Awareness trainings for learners of skills development courses and Migration Awareness trainings which were attended by a total of 208 people. CHRO also arranged theatre shows in 13 villages of Hakha Township, reaching 2,050 people. PGMF developed two training curricula on the importance of remittance saving and income generating activities and carried out two corresponding master TOTs for project partners. A total of 140 field trainers (82 male and 58 female) received trainings on the importance of remittance saving. In 2017, project partners conducted the village trainings where knowledge and skills on remittance management and saving were shared with a total of 7,585 individuals. Skills development training started in September and October in the project's target areas. In 2017, 365 people (168 female and 197 male) completed 10 different skills development courses offered by government technical institutions and private training providers in the target states and regions. A scoping study on migration governance started in September. The purpose was to map existing policies, mechanisms and actors on migration and development and to identify gaps to provide necessary information for the government to commit to developing a comprehensive policy on migration governance and institutionalisation.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 CARE, Pyoe Pin, Business Kind Myanmar Aung Myin Hmu Project - Industry Solutions for Safe Employment</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,985,643 From 01/03/2017 to 30/06/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Launching events for the project were organized in Hlaing Thar Yar Township. ‡ Project Cycle Management training for partners especially for the staff from BKM and CARE was conducted. ‡ Gender analysis was developed and shared with partners. ‡ First meeting for the periodisation of National Occupational Competency Standards (NOCS) was held in June 2017. ‡ Pyoe Pin signed an MOU on 18 August, 2017 with the Ministry of Labour and Population (MOLIP) to work together to build the National Occupational Competencies for the Garment Industry and to establish a model training centre for garment skills. ‡ Pyoe Pin signed an MOU with Bogart Lingerie on 16 August, 2017 to run accredited training lines. ‡ Pyoe Pin signed an MOU with Eurogate on 18 August 2017 to run accredited training lines. ‡ Agreement entered on 2 December, 2017 between factories, National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), government and brands that Levels 1 and 2 of the NOCS for the garment industry will include a combined 33 per cent industrial and basic skills component. All workers trained under the new NOCS will receive training in industrial skills (labour law, workers' rights and responsibilities) and in basic skills (cognitive and soft skills such as financial management).
<p>6 Eden Ministry Ltd. The Eden Project to Rescue Migrant Women and Girls who have been Trafficked into Sexual Exploitation in Yangon</p> <p>Budget: 199,508 From 01/03/2017 to 31/05/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ An additional safe shelter was rented, renovated and fully furnished. The beneficiaries moved in on 1 May 2017. ‡ 29 women received shelter and a welcome pack from the Eden safe shelter. ‡ On average, 41 people in the red-light areas were reached each week. ‡ 23 per cent of Eden's referrals were due to the Outreach Eden carries out on a weekly basis. ‡ Eden has trained and employed 32 victims of human trafficking. ‡ Eden provided training in jewellery making, hair dressing and beauty therapy, basic computer skills, barista and baking training, retail and sales training, and English language for beginners. ‡ The trainee in the "trauma focused" counselling is progressing well in her understanding of the trauma counselling process. ‡ All 32 of Eden's referrals received empowerment counselling. ‡ 30 trafficking survivors attended art therapy. Two courses of art therapy occurred, consisting of a combined total of 39 sessions.

9.4.6

Important updates on 2 projects in 2017 on Land

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 GRET Understanding rural land issues to engage comprehensive policy dialogue in Myanmar</p> <p>From 23/05/2013 to 30/04/2019 Budget: USD 1,053,864 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Tenure in Rural Lowland Myanmar was officially launched on 3 October 2017. This book is the result of two years' land research in the Delta and Dry Zone. In-depth field research was released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study on land dynamics in peri-urban Yangon (Htantabin Township). - A study on land dynamics in urban and peri-urban Hakha, Northern Chin - A study on land dynamics in peri-urban Mandalay (draft report) A quantitative land survey was carried out in Amarapura and Patheingyi townships, peri-urban Mandalay. 6 full-assessments and 10 pre-assessments were carried out for government-led land reallocation programme in Ayeyarwady, Magway, Sagaing and Bago regions. The land assessments reports are drafted. Two workshops were organised to share the assessments' findings in Maubin district for the Ayeyarwady regional government and in Nay Pyi Taw for MoALI. The scoping mission for the second upland land study in Thanintharyi was carried out. Research findings were shared to inform the development of the Agriculture Development Strategy and the review of farmland laws. A policy note: Small-scale agriculture as a key source of employment in Myanmar and a key lever of development, was presented to upper and lower house parliamentary committees concerned with land issues in a policy workshop.
<p>2 Land Core Group Fostering equitable access and control over land and related natural resources in Myanmar</p> <p>From 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2018 Budget: USD 1,699,466 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project led the independent assessment of two potential sites for land allocation in the Delta. The findings were presented to the Ayeyarwady Regional Government and to MoALI in Nay Pyi Taw. 44 CSO staff from 9 CSOs were trained to become trainers on land law awareness and subsequently trained over 11,000 farmers (2,500 women). Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A research report on contract farming was released. - A research report on land and gender based on over 400 interviews across 4 locations was published. - A research on customary tenure in Nagaland is ongoing. - The University of Forestry completed a field research on land used change. A Female Farmer Forum was organised in Mandalay: 34 women representing 16 farmers' networks across Myanmar came to discuss land issues from their perspective. A policy brief was published. 17,000 copies of the National Land Use Policy were printed and distributed to government officers, MPs and CSOs The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (FAO) was translated into Myanmar language. The land reinvestigation committees from Magway, Mawlamyine, Dawei, Kawthang and Myeik followed a 3-day capacity building workshop. The FLL amendments have been translated into English and made available on MyLAFF. 2 legal experts developed recommendations for reforming the Farm Land Laws. A 2-day workshop with CSOs and stakeholders was organised for discussing the Farmland law and the LCG amendments. LCG has supported the Farmer Forum Committee (FFC) to share their comments on the laws with the government. An independent review of the Land Acquisition Act has been completed. Several trainings on the art of legislation, land laws, planning and budgeting were provided to Sagaing and Yangon MPs. Workshops in Yangon and in Mon State were organised to consult local stakeholders on the draft Agricultural Development Strategy. Recommendations for improving ADS from LCG and other stakeholders were shared with MoALI. MyLAFF now has 640 members and over 1,300 documents related to Myanmar land and natural resource tenure issues available for download.

Important updates on 14 projects in 2017 in the Financial Inclusion Programme

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 From 10/2016 to 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 finalized the project targeted townships- Myingyan and Nathogyi and those townships have 28017 members and 13253 members respectively. ‡ CCA received INGO registration from Ministry of Home Affairs. ‡ MOUs have been signed with the Department of Cooperatives and the Townships. In addition, 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. The survey result indicated following market demands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Community needs flexible loan in line with their crop season and types of business ‡ Formal saving practice is not strong in rural area because of past history in banking and cooperative sector, however community is looking for easy access to saving services. ‡ CCA is developing financial product designs as per market survey. ‡ Two Townships Saving and Credit Federations disbursed MMK 8.9 billion to 43,889 households. 87 percent of the loans were for agricultural production; 12.6 percent for business/trade and 0.4 percent for livestock.
<p>2 Cordaid Foundation Technical assistance to LIFT/ Cordaid partner microfinance institutions</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,000,000 From Mar-16 to Dec-18 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 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 in process of negotiation for technical assistance to those MFIs. ‡ CordAid has also exploring technical assistance support other local mfis such ECLOF, Unique Quality, and Pyae Mahar and another international mfi, Entrepreneur Dumonde.
<p>3 GRET Creation of a microfinance institution in the Dry Zone, Myanmar</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,463,600 From 1/12/2013 to 30/06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>GRET requested and received the approval for cost extension for Dry Zone microfinance project in order to transfer to Thitsar Oo Yin Company Limited from the institutional umbrella of GRET.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ After getting LIFT's approval on asset transfer, GRET transferred the assets including loan portfolio from GRET to Thitsar Ooyin together with audited financial statement. ‡ Project prepared of all Contracts [as per Labour Office template] and Social Security Registration for all staff and transferred to new company ‡ Project selected MIS software supplier to Kredits ‡ Project upgraded of all IT hardware and software for Thitsar Ooyin ‡ Project setup of Local Area Network in all Township Offices ‡ Project successfully reached its target of opening branches in three townships in the Dryzone: Monywa, Yaminbin and Budalin ‡ The Executive project team is composed of the Project Manager (PM), Deputy Project Manager, the General Manager and the Finance Manager; The Project Team is composed of 32 Myanmar staff working under the support of the Project Manager and General Manager. ‡ By end of November 2017, the Project serves to 11,372 members after the first loan disbursement in June 2014. More than 99% members live in rural villages. ‡ Total loan outstanding amount is USD 1.32 million and the percentage of loan utilizations are 60 percent in livestock, 15 percent in agriculture and 25 percent in production& services.
<p>4 GRET Expanding Rural Financial Markets by Institutionalizing Chin MFI</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,320,176 From 14/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>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. This project proposes new products to rural households that will be tested through a pilot phase and then rolled out in the different townships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Chin MFI applied as Thitsar Ooyin Company Limited and approved the company registration from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) (Ref. 301FC/2016-2017(YGN) date:15/7/2016). ‡ GRET prepared the Asset Transfer list and transfer agreements between GRET and Thitsar Ooyin with the close support of VDB Loi Law Firm ‡ Senior project staff received the Microfinance Training from Boulder Institute Italy, leadership and management training from local institution, and community based financial inclusion and microfinance training from Bangkok ‡ 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. ‡ Project started the expansion to Kalay township.

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>5 International Finance Corporation (IFC) Capacity building for Inclusive Financial Sector</p> <p>Budget: USD 3,619,552 From 01/07/2014 to 30/06/18 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>This program is supporting two areas of financial inclusion sector in terms of sector level and institutional level. Through the sector level support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ IFC organized the microfinance capacity building trainings such as business planning and internal audit in Yangon and Mandalay. 105 people from MFIs, FRD and CBM attended, of whom 57 percent were women. ‡ In addition, IFC trained 8 people as trainer through Training of Trainers (ToT) with the five modules: business planning, finance and accounting, human resources, risk management and internal audit. All training courses in Yangon were conducted in close collaboration with Myanmar Microfinance Association (MMFA). ‡ Conducted planning and technical meetings with MMFA lead advisor (ADA) as regarding general progress, internal management and governance and 5-year strategic planning. ‡ IFC designed a Training Program on Responsible Finance for Regulators and MFIs. 92 participants attend this training and 65% of participants are from Financial Regulatory Department from all states and regions. <p>Institutional level support: IFC provided advisory supports to PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF), Proximity Finance (PF), Vision Fund Myanmar (VFM) and Fullerton in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ PGMF: The implementation of the advisory project with PGMF was concluded by end of June 2016. ‡ Proximity Finance: During this period IFC concluded the implementation of the project component on improving Human Resources management at Proximity. ‡ Vision Fund: IFC conducted a training program to reinforce Project Management skills of VFM's senior and middle management. ‡ Fullerton Myanmar (FFMCL): Project supported operational costs to expand microfinance activities in both rural and peri-urban area. In order to meet FFMCL's target
<p>6 PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) Myanmar Access to Rural Credit (MARC)</p> <p>Budget: USD 7,327,324 From 16/07/2012 to 15/07/2017 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>PGMF provided capacity development support to nine local microfinance organizations aiming to operational and financial self-sufficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ All nine local microfinance organizations were financially sustained i.e., return from microfinance operations covered both operation costs and financial costs. ‡ All nine started application process for new microfinance licenses and are expected to receive the licenses by June 2018. Therefore, the project extended until end of June 2018 without additional budget. ‡ Total clients 70,824 (98% women) ‡ Total loan disbursement during 2017 USD 13.7 million ‡ Loan portfolio: 39 percent crop production; 29 percent livestock and 27 percent trading ‡ Final project evaluation is in process.
<p>7 PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) Myanmar Access to Financial Inclusion (MAFIN)</p> <p>Budget: USD 1,700,000 From 01/09/2015 to 31/08/2017 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ At the end of project, PGMF achieved opening of six new branches in three townships in the Dryzone reaching to 33,363 households. PGMF disbursed a total of USD 10.2 million loan of which 75 percent was for livestock and small business and 25 percent was for crop loans. ‡ Agricultural loans (crop production) was for beans/pulses, a crop the MADB does not finance. ‡ Final project evaluation is underway.
<p>8 PACT Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) Rakhine Access to Financial Inclusion (RAFIN)</p> <p>Budget: USD 8,323,497 From 14/12/2015 to 31/12/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>PGMF targeted to open new microfinance branches in eight Townships in Rakhine State including LIFT Rakhine Program Townships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ PGMF: RAFIN data (2017 Dec) ‡ Total clients 59,074 clients (98% women) ‡ Total villages 1,917 villages ‡ Total loan disbursement during 2017 USD 10.4 million ‡ Percentage of loans – 92 percent small business and livestock
<p>9 Proximity Designs Financial Inclusion—Moving Ahead</p> <p>Budget: USD 5,097,164 From 01/10/2015 to 30/06/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Proximity received company registration as Proximity Finance Microfinance Company Limited and waiting recommendation from state, regional government and Ministry of Home Affair. Proximity Finance has designed new loan products for specific market segments for migrant families and micro-entrepreneurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ 15,071 loans are disbursed in 2016 (6700 loans in Dry Zone, 2,971 loans in Uplands, 5,330 loans to 2015 flood effected households) ‡ Five new branches are opened in Monywa, Mahlaing, Shwebo, Kyaukse and Waw ‡ Piloted and rolled out 1,961 loans for migrant families in the Dry Zone: Myingyan, Magway, Monywa, Pakokku and Mahlaing. ‡ Enterprise loan was disbursed to 4,463 families ‡ The overall portfolio is USD 18.3 million with 92,384 clients in 55 townships

	IP and project details	Important updates
10	<p>UNCDF Support to Savings-led Microfinance Market Leaders to Enter Myanmar (Microlead Expansion Programme)</p> <p>Budget: USD 7,006,262 From 31/10/2012 – 30/12/2017 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>The project managed to bring regional microfinance institutions to promote saving led microfinance services. The project also support to development of financial inclusion policy and legal framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Microlead’s microfinance partners: ASA Myanmar and Alliance Myanmar were operationally sustainable by end of the project i.e., return from the microfinance operations fully covered operation costs. ‡ Sustainability of Savings and Credits Cooperatives (SCC) is in question as they have not achieved operational self-sufficiency.
11	<p>Vision Fund International Financial Inclusion in the Garment Sector</p> <p>Budget: USD800,000 From 12/2017 to 06/2019 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ VFM has just opened their branches in Hlaing TharYar and South Dagon two weeks ago

9.4.8

Important updates on 4 projects in 2017 on Private Sector Partnerships

IP and project details	Important updates
<p>1 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Research Group (IERG) - University of Sydney</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,007,290 From 16/12/2013 to 31/03/2017 <i>Closing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project trained total of 119 mentors and 104 mentors were appointed by the Entrepreneurship Development Network Asia (EDNA) for current and future training program. Project supported series of trainings (cycle 1 to 3, batch 1 to 6) for 9,313 entrepreneurs in total followed each batch by enterprise development days. Project conducted over 315 classrooms across nine regions in Myanmar (11 Field Offices). The public-private partnership gained by the project enables EDNAmm to extend your networking extensively. Total of 1046 participants attended the final 'Super Enterprise Development Day' event held on 11th Feb 2017 at MCCT, Yangon.
<p>2 Michigan State University Agrifood Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,199,178 From 07/2015 to 06/2018 <i>Ongoing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project continue supports advocacy to MoALI's policy unit for policy formulation and implementation of the project. Participated in review of Department of Agricultural Research pulse strategy and analysis of implications of India pulse trade ban and potential policy solutions in the short, medium and long term. Project trained 55 enumerator and 11 data entry operators for rolled out rural economy and agriculture Dry Zone survey (READZ) targeted 1600 households in 100 villages in 4 Dry Zone townships (Budalin, Myittha, Pwintbyu, Magway). 3 draft research highlights have been share to LIFT Fund Board Members. Completed READZ community survey implemented in 300 villages in 14 townships in Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing regions. Completed scoping interviewed with 22 agricultural machinery rental services providers, 3 township AMD officials, 9 oil mills to facilitate off-farm value chain survey questionnaire development. Complete four urban and rural surveys in Monywa, Magway, Pakkoku, Shwebo and Mandalay for 770 enterprises by trained 20 enumerators. For outreach activities, researchers participated, disseminated and presented study findings at various conferences, forum, donors, workshops, MoALI and fishery federations both domestically and internationally. Keynote speech at the Myanmar Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Symposium featured in an article in Myanmar Times; https://www.mmtimes.com/news/new-aquaculture-economy-emerged-rising-fish-demand.html#.Wg8b5WsyVLo.email All published research reports are planning to upload LIFT website at http://www.lift-fund.org and MSU website http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news?countries=burma&components=&themes=.
<p>3 The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX) Currency exchange risk hedging facility for microfinance institutions in Myanmar</p> <p>Budget: USD 10,000,000 From 11/2016 to 12/2018</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 80 million of debt; In receiving kyat loans, the MFIs served 337,642 clients all together. The average loan size was USD 237. 84% of these clients are women, 64% of these clients live in rural areas. This means that 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).
<p>4 Yoma Bank Yoma Agricultural Finance Programme</p> <p>Budget: USD 18,070,000 From 12/2015 to 12/2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By December 2017, the program financed 5,128 leases for equipment worth USD 102 million (USD 84 million HP loan) through 17 equipment dealers and 42 Yoma Bank branches across 12 states and regions including Nay Pyi Taw. In total, it has resulted number of 2923 tractors, 702 combine harvesters, 1235 transport vehicles, 13 harvester, and 255 tillers. Within 24 months, the program has leveraged Yoma Bank co-financing totaling USD 87 million. Total of 37 maize traders have been disbursed total of USD 3.3 mln (MMK 4.3 billion) in 2017 reaching an estimated 6,8000 farmers. Disbursement of USD 5.6 mln (MMK 7.3 bln) 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 micro loans to farmers estimated benefits to 28,000 stallholders. Revision IDA (Individual Development Accounts) agreed by LIFT on September 2017. Hired project Chief Digital Officer is currently initiating to rollout IDA and building capacity to tackle the various challenges that come with realizing the IDA objectives. Note: 1 USD=1300 MMK

Important updates on 2 projects in 2017 on Agriculture Projects Financial Inclusion

IP and project details

Important updates

<p>1 Mercy Corps (in partnership with Swiss Contact) Making Vegetable Markets Work (MVMW) for the Poor</p> <p>Budget: USD 4,000,000 From 06/2014 to 03/2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Project supported extension services on vegetable production through private sector engagement, East-West Seed (EWS) and Asiatic Industries. Project continued to support new products/inputs through voucher system. Redesigned and relaunched voucher program with new partner Marlarmyaing in order to have ownership by the private sector and sharing of discounts. ‡ In 2017, project trained 10695 farmers in total through EWS and Asiatic Industries. ‡ In Rakhine, working together with farmers, completed market map for vegetables sector. Project's voucher program brought 254 farmers to adopt new agricultural technology/seed. Established 89 demonstration plots with 74 key farmers together with EWS. Vegetables Agrifair is schedule to be held at Rakhine early January or February of 2018. Project trained 113 DoA extension staff including staff from Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships in good agricultural practices (EWS and MC staff) though four module training. ‡ In Southern Shan State, engaged with AgroBio, launched two seedling nursery businesses, held awareness events with 345 farmers. Engaged with Marlar Myaing to introduce new drip irrigation technology in Southern Shan State through six demonstration site by six key farmers and voucher promotion. Closed down major activities in Southern Shan State with exception of Agrobio service. Project supported exchange visit with Rakhine farmers, DoA staff, and traders who visited Southern Shan State. ‡ Organized a roundtable on "Improving Market Access for Myanmar Vegetables", the third policy discussion in conjunction with the Vegetable Sector Acceleration Taskforce (VSAT).
<p>2 PRIME-SPE Water for Livelihoods and Smallholder Prosperity (WFL)</p> <p>Budget: USD 2,296,915 From 12/2015 to 12/2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Revision of project resulted shortened the project period from 3 year to 2.1 year (December 2015 to December 2017) with total budget of \$2.29 million. ‡ Project supported introduction of irrigation techniques, development of water resource, providing training, enhancing productivity and access to market via improved seeds to smallholders (Year 2017: targeted at 495 farmers/990 acres) in Taunggyi Township, Southern Shan State. ‡ Project trained 97 farmers in Global G.A.P in 2016-2017 marketed new affordable flat pipe sprinkler irrigation system. ‡ Project introduced new irrigation to 147 farmers on 248 acres of farm land that previously missing out on any dry season cultivation by developing community water resources (3 drilled tube wells). ‡ Project supported 99 farmers contracted with PRIME for onions production destined for export which includes the advance of essential inputs to be repaid from harvest receipts. ‡ Project final evaluation was schedule to be conducted in January 2018. (draft report is available now and review by FMO and PRIME: initial findings; project demonstrated successful community water resource development through drilled tube wells which cover 248 acres of farm land but it did not meet the target of 990 acres of newly irrigated lands by smallholder, contracted onion farmers received inputs in advance from PRIME for export market which harvest time be around mid-march 2018)

9.5

Achievement of LIFT Financial Inclusion Partners as of 31 December 2017

	OSS		FSS		Total Asset (USD)		All Client		Women Client		Outstanding Loan Amount (USD)		2017 Balance of Savings (USD)
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
<i>Local Microfinance Institutions</i>													
Ar Yone Oo	179%	161%	139%	119%	798,730	960,617	7,161	8,378	7,112	8,317	379,438	461,291	197,389
Border Development Association	196%	201%	151%	143%	849,190	1,038,730	6,934	7,533	6,930	7,526	621,646	877,277	189,365
Environmental Conservation and Livelihood outreach Foundation - ECLOF	158%	159%	128%	121%	805,561	969,137	7,596	8,273	7,545	8,215	701,864	928,682	262,836
Myanmar Heart Development Organization	156%	152%	132%	117%	680,835	813,032	7,335	8,375	7,152	8,137	542,304	709,484	179,373
Ratana Metta Organization	161%	186%	129%	131%	800,601	957,041	7,195	7,899	7,059	7,761	713,002	901,537	178,180
Social Vision Service	149%	159%	129%	120%	640,857	778,600	6,871	7,747	6,819	7,671	506,720	692,820	161,401
The Sun Institute	147%	136%	132%	106%	613,623	733,500	7,230	8,112	7,105	7,970	496,169	618,428	158,586
Wan Lark	150%	162%	135%	119%	584,991	705,642	6,049	7,156	5,823	6,915	515,188	692,461	125,368
YMCA Microfinance	162%	149%	134%	110%	643,958	764,089	6,217	7,351	6,110	7,222	409,464	535,702	154,810
Myanmar Finance*		123%		122%		8,803,577		52,506		44,919		7,869,392	1,425,441
<i>Cooperatives</i>													
38 Saving and Credit Cooperatives	102%	146%		146%	725,893	970,960	19,029	25,500	9,514	15,045	473,638	917,900	593,143
CCA-Myingyan TSC		169%		147%		2,969,767		36,039		14,021		2,881,931	2,115,682
CCA-Natogyi TSC		265%		147%		1,806,113		16,231		5,391		1,559,055	612,162
<i>International Microfinance Institutions</i>													
Alliance Myanmar	94%	122%	87%	110%	5,046,180	14,790,075	21,857	148,005	18,427	122,134	4,738,897	13,916,486	2,689,822
ASA Myanmar	99%	157%	98%	119%	9,808,470	19,675,904	67,433	114,401	67,433	113,786	8,669,113	17,166,200	2,228,574
Fullerton Myanmar	126%	126%	81%	86%	17,295,017	25,590,156	58,469	92,109	53,207	82,375	11,145,860	21,321,392	772,391
Gret Microfinance (Chin) - Thitsar Oo Yin	161%	147%	109%	107%	1,981,167	2,131,961	10,065	10,126	6,236	6,484	1,913,749	1,973,274	-
Gret Microfinance (Dryzone) - Thitsar Oo Yin	108%	121%	95%	108%	1,600,440	1,641,934	8,656	11,370	6,983	9,173	881,826	1,410,290	-
Pact Global Microfinance Fund	136%	165%	106%	145%	165,502,635	201,675,188	1,201,507	858,093	1,177,477	850,069	144,435,650	181,304,686	63,873,003
Proximity Designs	119%	127%	104%	109%	13,376,660	24,628,174	79,198	91,209	41,423	54,725	11,698,644	18,050,007	-
Vision Fund Myanmar	71%	102%	67%	96%	18,970,073	31,750,705	104,157	174,874	90,397	147,065	14,996,046	28,346,697	3,475,452

	OSS		FSS		Total Asset (USD)		All Client		Women Client		Outstanding Loan Amount (USD)		2017 Balance of Savings (USD)
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
ACLEDA*		283%		270%		26,023,001		63,170		41,814		22,777,948	1,786,628
BRAC*		101%		88%		9,996,160		50,977		50,915		8,951,932	824,960
CARD*		119%		108%		1,203,310		10,662		10,657		757,491	174,632
Early Dawn*		109%		66%		52,542,441		125,939		125,930		23,956,894	1,293,652
LOLC*		130%		123%		27,931,811		67,894		64,830		18,333,936	3,341,122
Sathapana*		187%		144%		24,843,593		107,647		81,130		22,466,965	1,716,513

Private Bank

Yoma Bank's Agri Finance Program (Hire purchase of agricultural equipment and machines)	2,974	4871	223	328	208,103,828	56,910,399	-
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Total for all LIFT financial inclusion (65 partners)	240,724,881	486,695,218	1,635,933	2,132,447	1,532,975	1,910,525	411,943,046	57,290,556	88,530,484
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9.6

Policy Engagement in 2017

Financial Inclusion

<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. LIFT resources have been employed to create a loan loss reserve. LIFT also pays for technical expertise to set up and manage the programme. The hire purchase services might otherwise not be commercially viable given the prevailing interest rate ceiling and the bank's lack of experience with rural agricultural entrepreneurs. This initiative supported agricultural mechanisation and provided inputs to policy implementation of MoALI, especially the Agriculture Mechanization Department (AMD), to "help support increased use of well-adapted quality farm machineries and equipment in an effort to transform into a modern agricultural mechanisation system", as stipulated in the ministry's policy document.</p> <p>During the three years of the project, the bank expects to become more familiar with this previously unknown market to manage risks. This will contribute to sustainability of hire purchase services for rural agribusinesses so that farmers can have extensive access to agricultural mechanisation to overcome labor scarcity issues and to increase productivity and profitability.</p>
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Food Security

<p>Development Strategy and Investment Plan Formulation</p> <p>LIFT agricultural advisors</p> <p>Collaborators: MOALI departments especially DOP and state/regional governments, private sectors, CSOs and development partners</p>	<p>Agricultural Development Strategy and Investment Plan (2017-2018 to 2021-2022) Formulation: Two LIFT agricultural advisors at the MoALI worked closely with the DOP to provide technical assistance to the ministry throughout the entire process of developing the ADS and Investment Plan, with an initial intention to apply for grant funding from GAFSP. This is because GAFSP called for submission of both the ADS and investment plan, together with the proposal for grant. The Ministry was able to apply for GAFSP funding and received USD 27 million in early 2017 to promote agricultural development and food security in three townships each in the three Dry Zone Regions (Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing) in Myanmar.</p> <p>The ADS is a living document. During 2017, the two advisors continued to work with the MoALI to broaden consultations on the strategy from state/regional governments, line departments, private sector, CSOs (including farmers groups) and development partners in all states and regions in May and June. They then incorporated consultation outcomes into an advanced draft at the end of August. After that, the document was peer-reviewed and approved by the Union Minister. A summary of the approved ADS summary document was published in October for World Food Day. The full ADS document and Investment Plan were scheduled to be published in March 2018.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Improved Policy Implementation for Food Security</p> <p>LIFT IP: FSWG</p> <p>Collaborators: MOALI, 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 develop and implement effective food security policies in Myanmar by strengthening FSWG members' advocacy capacity and supporting their effective engagement with policy makers. Towards this aim, the project worked closely with MoALI, the two LIFT agriculture advisors and other CSOs/NGOs, particularly LCG, to conduct public consultations on the drafted ADS document during April and June. The project provided both technical and financial support to MoALI's ADS team during public consultation process in all states and regions.</p> <p>The FSWG project team first organised the consultation design workshop on 25-26 April 2017 at the FSWG office to develop ADS consultation design and proposal and received MoALI approval by end of April 2017. The consultation design and proposal included formation of the MoALI-led ADS facilitation team, trainings to the facilitation team before the consultations, required materials, consultation plan, selection and agreement on focal organisations to facilitate consultation meetings for different geographical areas, costed work plan for 17 consultations (14 States/Regions and three sub-regions in Shan plus Nay Pyi Taw). The design and proposal were used as roadmaps for the whole consultation process to refine the ADS with public inputs.</p> <p>The project team also played important facilitation roles in public consultation workshops in some states and regions. FSWG's member CSOs in these areas also participated in focus group discussions. FSWG enabled its members to voice their concerns on diverse food security related policy issues. Despite some limitations, the state and region level public consultations were highly welcomed as successful public engagement in policy development by MoALI.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: IEC sector development for rural agriculture</p> <p>LIFT IP: UNESCO</p> <p>Collaborators: MOI, MOALI, YAU, ABCID, Thomson Reuters Foundation, Myanmar Now, Dant Da Lun Management and Consulting Services</p>	<p>Communication for Sustained Livelihood and Food Security Project works closely with the government (MoALI, MoI) and private media and partners for sourcing, packaging and sharing lessons and knowledge on food security and livelihood issues through a variety of policy channels and community media formats. The project includes active and adequate capacity building opportunities for a range of stakeholders, including information/extension workers of relevant government agencies, and community focal-points, who need continuing education, particularly in knowledge management and public information (extension) work.</p> <p>In 2017, the project worked in partnership with MRTV for 54 TV and Radio products which have been broadcast in 18 different languages (Myanmar language and 17 ethnic languages) to 20 million farmers across Myanmar. While producing IEC materials, the project used a collaborative approach with farmers and other stakeholders to reflect their views and concerns. As a result, farmers' voices have increased in radio, TV and print media. This pushes policy makers to consider practical policy options and initiatives to better address agriculture and livelihoods related to actual issues faced by farmers.</p>

<p>Policy Issue: Small-scale fishery development in Ayeyarwady Region</p> <p>LIFT IP: NAG</p> <p>Collaborators: Ayeyarwady Government, DOF, ARFN</p>	<p>Improved Co-management of Ayeyarwady Wetland Resources Project worked to improve co-management of wetland resources in Ayeyarwady Region by promoting increased participation of communities in fisheries co-management; revisiting legal framework for supporting community access to, and the conservation of natural resources; improving performance of government institutions (DoF) and establishing of effective fisheries partnerships & networks.</p> <p>In 2017, the Project selected 101 villages for fishery co-management of 17 clusters in 11 townships and trained representatives from Village Fisher Associations in these villages. About 90 of them gained improved access to fishing grounds through awarding of tenders by the Regional Government. For wider co-management, the Project provided technical support to the Regional Government in drafting a new law to replace the 2012 Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fisheries Law and by-laws in order to increase the small-scale fishers' legal access of fishing grounds. This has led the Ayeyarwady Government to submit the Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fisheries Bill to the Ayeyarwady Hluttaw and received approval by the Hluttaw during 30 March 2018 Hluttaw Session.</p> <p>The project also worked closely with the DOF at both regional and union levels by building staff capacities so that the staff can effectively provide extension and training support to fisheries co-management groups in the ground. For establishment of effective fisheries partnerships & networks, the project supported the Ayeyarwady Regional Fisher Network (ARFN) to prepare an IEC package for conducting co-management community awareness campaigns scheduled for 2018. The project also supported networking events such as multi-stakeholders experience-sharing workshops with other regions.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Aquaculture development</p> <p>LIFT IP: WorldFish</p> <p>Collaborators: DOF, 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, including diagnosis, design, and testing of innovations in aquaculture, followed by a roll-out of successfully field-tested technologies. The project documents innovation and learning for policy engagement on Small-scale Aquaculture (SSA) for sustainable aquaculture and improved food security.</p> <p>In 2017, the project formed farmer groups in 152 villages in the Delta and Central Dry Zone regions. A total of five SSA systems were tested in the learning phase under different systems (ponds, chan myaung and WISH ponds) in the Delta and Central Dry Zone (CDZ) under various water availabilities and access regimes (irrigated all year round, seasonally irrigated and rain-fed).</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: This project has made significant progress in the livestock sector in the following areas.</p> <p>(1) Livestock Census and National Livestock Baseline Survey (NLBS)</p> <p>The pilot census was completed in six project townships in the Dry Zone. Based on the experience of the pilot census, the government planned to undertake a NLBS in early 2018 to estimate the national livestock population and provide information to inform sector policy. The project also trained 889 LBVD staff and provided material support such as tablets for survey implementation.</p> <p>(2) Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) policy and guidelines</p> <p>A national policy and implementation guidelines for the provision of livestock services to smallholders by CAHWs were approved and accepted by LBVD, MVC, MVA, and UVS. The project has provided technical assistance for this policy development.</p> <p>(3) Cattle Breed Improvement Policy</p> <p>The project has established a working group on livestock breeding improvement. It has also established baseline data on cattle breeding in the project area and artificial insemination in cattle in many townships outside the project area in order to develop a cattle breed improvement policy at national level.</p> <p>(4) Increased Budget Allocation</p> <p>The government allocated a special budget of MMK 1.4 billion for the NLBS. This includes staff costs for data entry of 146,517 households and material costs. LBVD has spent considerable amount of the budget procuring computers and tablets and giving Excel training to its staff engaged in NLBS.</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: The project seeks to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Myanmar.</p> <p>In 2017, GEN became a new member of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs. In the first meeting of this high-level inter-ministerial committee in July, GEN discussed implementation of gender agenda such as CEDAW and Sustainable Development Goal 5. On behalf of civil society groups, GEN has also been involved in the Gender Equality and Women Development Coordination Partner Group under the Development Assistance Coordination Unit. The project also advised on a passage of PoVAW Law and formed a PoVAW law advocacy working group in August to better develop effective strategies for advocacy and hosted group meetings. GEN worked together with other women networks to advocate for the law with a collective voice.</p> <p>The project organised two workshops for high-level government officials and MPs in January and February: 1) Considerations for Developing a CEDAW Concluding Observations Implementation Plan jointly with the DSW, and 2) Constitutional Assessment for Women Equality, jointly with International IDEA, both in Nay Pyi Taw. In June, the project led the Women's Empowerment Leads to True Transformation Stakeholder Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw with 120 parliamentarians. It was an awareness raising workshop to pave the way for women's participation in the governance structure. The project organised a wide range of gender-related trainings, seminars, conferences, forums and other events throughout the year.</p>
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Inclusive Value Chains

<p>Policy Issue: Vegetable Sector Development</p> <p>Implementer: Mercy Corps Europe</p> <p>Collaborators: Swisscontact and East-West Seed International</p>	<p>Making Vegetable Markets Work for Smallholders for the Poor: This project in Southern Shan and Rakhine States assisted the Vegetable Sector Acceleration Task Force (VSAT) to strengthen the enabling environment for the vegetable sector. The VSAT is a working group of the Myanmar Agricultural Network, itself a part of the World Economic Forum-created Grow Asia initiative. MVMW funds many VSAT activities as well as the salary of the VSAT secretary.</p> <p>During 2017, the project successfully conducted a policy advocacy round table meeting on Rice Sector in the Lower Delta: Creating a More Enabling Sustainable Environment in Patheingyi. The meeting on 16-17 May focused on the sustainable development of the rice sector in the lower Ayeyarwady, covering nine townships with 109 participants. The participants included farmers, millers, DOA township representatives, rice trading representatives, exporters, rice producers, millers, seed producers, input suppliers, civil society organisations as well as local and international NGOs. This meeting coordinated public, private and non-profit sectors to work together on an agreed agenda for a sustainable rice sector in lower Ayeyarwady.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Agriculture Value Chain</p> <p>LIFT IP: Michigan State University (MSU)</p> <p>Collaborators: CESD, IFPRI, DOP of MOALI</p>	<p>Agrifood Value Chain Development in Myanmar: Implications for Livelihoods of the Rural Poor: The project is comprised of four components. The first component is mainly to support APU with strategic policy advice and capacity building of APU and MoALI staff involved in policy-making process (see below).</p> <p>The second component concerns agriculture food value chains. In 2017, the ongoing survey on Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone established baseline data on agriculture producing practices, value chains, role of irrigation and characteristics of the rural economy in the Dry Zone for improving smallholder productivity, profitability and market participation.</p> <p>The third component concerns household and community livelihoods. In 2017, the project completed the Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey (MAAS) and published a comprehensive report and policy brief to provide strategic advice to the MoALI.</p> <p>The fourth component concerns capacity development and network building. On 30 June, a half-day dissemination workshop was held for MAAS with development partners, civil society, government, and private sector. The workshop shared findings on aquaculture in Myanmar, its spillover effects on the rural economy, rapid agricultural mechanisation, and the productivity, profitability, and management of crop agriculture.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Agriculture Policy Unit (APU)</p> <p>LIFT IP: Michigan State University (MSU)</p> <p>Collaborators: CESD, IFPRI, DOP of MOALI</p>	<p>The APU was set up in early 2017 and is currently housed in DOP's monitoring and evaluation division. The MSU project team leader is one of the two international advisors working with the APU, along with 12 national staff assigned from different departments of MoALI. The project team leader closely worked with the rest of APU team and the DOP under the guidance of the Permanent Secretary.</p> <p>The unit was tasked to analyse a research and extension reform on adoption of a decentralised farmer-oriented research planning system to capture potential productivity gains. The initial findings were presented at the annual research extension meetings in May. The APU also trained APU/MoALI staff with an intention to support the design of the GAFSP proposal. The staff learned the interplay between food and nutrition security, livelihoods and land. This work resulted in additional land-related interventions and nutrition-sensitive interventions in the GAFSP proposal. In November, the project conducted a five-day policy analysis course jointly with Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) and DoP for 30 participants from MoALI, YAU and LIFT. A follow-up course is scheduled for March 2018.</p>

Land

<p>Policy Issue: Land Tenure Policy</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 National Land Use Policy (NLUP), which was approved by the U Thein Sein administration in January 2016. However, in November 2017, the Parliamentary Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues suggested that the NLUP had some redundancies and requested removal of key provisions on customary tenure and gender, among others. This delayed the NLUP implementation until the formation of a National Land Use Council (NLUC) on 17 January 2018.</p> <p>During 2017, amendments to the Farmland Law and the Forest Law were submitted to Parliament. LCG worked closely with the Amyotha Hluttaw Farmers Affairs Committee to discuss concerns related to the Farmland Law amendments. It also worked closely with the Forest Department and MoNREC to develop a process to review the forest law and forest policy. The project has also been attempting to put some key wordings around community-managed forests into the law's amendments, with an aim to shape future by-laws.</p> <p>A new land acquisition act (LAA) was drafted by a special commission and it was submitted to the parliament in November 2017. LCG translated the draft LAA into English and worked with other CSOs to raise public awareness. LCG also requested an independent review of the LAA by ADB safeguard experts for further revision.</p> <p>In 2017, the project lobbied MoALI in ADS consultation meetings for nationwide and longer public consultation on the draft strategy document and the ministry accepted. Then FSWG agreed to lead in developing the consultation design and proposal for the process. Throughout the whole public consultation process, the project worked actively with two LIFT agricultural advisors and MoALI to provide inputs and recommendations to improve the strategy, particularly for land sector. In addition, LCG organised two ADS public consultation workshops in Mon State: one with specific land aspects of the strategy with LCG members and regional partners within LCG network and the other with MoALI, government departments, state government, CSOs and others for the generic ADS. This contributed to a stronger land component with two additional outputs of addressing land tenure security for livestock and aquaculture.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Supporting governments' land allocation initiatives</p> <p>Implementers: state and regional governments and MOALI</p> <p>Collaborators: GRET, Landesa and WHH</p>	<p>Following discussions with NLD representatives, Landesa, MoALI and the Ayeyarwady government for the regional government's land allocation programme, LIFT agreed to a Welthungerhilfe project expansion in April 2017 to provide financial and extension services to farmers who had received land from the government in Pyapon Township. LIFT also extended the GRET project to include assessments of potential land allocation sites to respond to requests from the Ayeyarwady, Bago and Mandalay regional governments for independent assessments of potential sites for land allocations to landless households in their region. Six assessments and 11 pre-assessments were conducted in the Ayeyarwady and Mandalay Regions.</p> <p>In May 2017, the MoALI representatives on LIFT's Fund Board presented the ministry's priorities to LIFT and requested LIFT's support in the land sector. DOP then submitted a concept note to LIFT for the reclamation of unused concessions land related to the VFVL Law and re-allocation to smallholder farmers and landless. In late 2017, LIFT requested GRET to include possible sites in Magway and Sagaing Regions recommended by MoALI in its land assessment survey activities. GRET completed a preliminary assessment of those sites in Magway and discussed the results with the MoALI and Magway Government representatives. Based on these findings, the MoALI decided to pilot its future land reclamation programme in Minhla Township of Magway. LIFT agreed to recruit a consulting team to work with MoALI to design the basic components of the pilot programme.</p>

Migration

<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 Project: This project aims to improve internal and international migration legislation and develop policies that enable women and men to migrate safely and better contribute to the future development of Myanmar. During 2017, some progresses on policy related works were made as follows:</p> <p>Briefing papers development for policy advocacy</p> <p>The Complaints Mechanism Briefing paper was completed and distributed. It contributed to in-depth discussions about different complaints mechanisms available to migrants.</p> <p>The Recruitment Briefing Paper was drafted. This draft was used in preparing a curriculum for the recruitment processes training. It was also used as a reference for discussions and review of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment (1999). Another drafted briefing paper on social protection also provided input into the preparation for discussions on the review of the law. That draft paper was also updated to include the recommendations from the National Preparatory Meeting and the 9th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour.</p> <p>Legal reform on migration</p> <p>The ILO provided technical assistance to the Migration Division of MoLIP to draft a revised version of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment (1999). The first draft was completed.</p>
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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 hosted the Secretariat for the SUN SCA. Through the SUN CSA, LEARN supported three national policy advocacy initiatives in 2017. First, it assisted the UN REACH-led national nutrition stocktaking exercise as an evidence-base for the government to make nutrition-related policy decisions. The SUN CSA collected data of its members' activities and implementing townships.</p> <p>Second, LEARN also supported the development of the national Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2018–2022 (MS-NPAN). SUN CSA managers and other LEARN managers provided technical support to MoALI and MSWRR in drafting sectoral nutrition-sensitive logframes as components of the strategic framework of the plan. Through MoHS, the NNC was tasked to submit the finalised strategic framework of the MS-NPAN to the Development Assistant Coordination Unit in January 2018.</p> <p>Third, LEARN and SUN CSA also supported the government's Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly (BBF) Initiative. The NNC and the Secretariat of the SUN CSA co-led the Initiative, methodology of which was developed by Yale University researchers. The BBF methodology enables countries to assess their readiness to scale up breastfeeding protection, promotion and support. Based on findings of a committee of national experts, NNC and SUN CSA will jointly develop a report outlining recommendations to Myanmar for opportunities for scale-up.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: MCCT for the first 1,000 days window</p> <p>LIFT IP: DSW with SBCC partners- Save the Children International DRC and NRC</p> <p>Collaborators: DOPH, NNC, HLPU, GAD and UNICEF</p>	<p>MCCT in Chin State is the first ever LIFT-funded programme with direct government implementation. It is also the first implementation of the first flagship programme out of a total of eight programmes in NSPSP, which was endorsed by the union government at the end of 2014. The programme focuses on improved nutrition of all children in their first 1,000 days since conception. This section will explore two components of the programme - cash transfers and nutrition SBCC messaging.</p> <p>For cash transfer component, the first bimonthly payment of 30,000 kyats per pregnant women or mother of under two was made in October 2017 in the whole Chin State with universal coverage. Such payments are planned to connect with awareness raising sessions on health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene at village and ward level. For that SBCC messaging component, an unprecedented interministerial SBCC committee was established. DSW, HLPU and NNC, LIFT, UNICEF, Save the Children and 3MDG participated in the first committee meeting in April. During this meeting, DSW presented its plans for nutrition education together with cash transfers. The HLPU's leading role in developing education with SBCC materials was also agreed. HLPU's recently developed IYCF materials would be used for nutrition education first but a broader SBCC strategy would also be developed to compliment MCCT programme in the whole Myanmar in the long run. LIFT agreed with MSWRR to fund MCCT in Chin for two years and the MSWRR plans to continue with union government budget after that. After receiving the agreement, the ministry was able to secure government funding for MCCT in Rakhine and Naga. It appears that LIFT funding for Chin MCCT played a catalytic role in securing government funding to implement MCCT in areas of Myanmar with the highest stunting rates. The DSW intends to eventually cover the whole of Myanmar.</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 worked to develop an unprecedented rice fortification policy in Myanmar as a way to reduce micronutrient deficiencies. Prior to 2017, the project team engaged closely with NNC, other governmental bodies and private and NGO stakeholders to establish RFWG and RFFT-two institutional structures, which were instrumental in policy formulation. While RFWG functions at more formal and decision making level with multi-stakeholders including various governmental bodies, RFFT, mainly with NNC, INGOs, and private actors, plays operational role in drafting the policy. In 2017, the project, together with other RFFT members, was able to produce the first draft of the National Rice Fortification Policy with RFWG's endorsement.</p> <p>In 2017, the project team started to engage with the then newly-formed NSCG, under the Development Assistance Coordination Unit, to accelerate the nutrition policy development. The NSCG is chaired by the Union Minister of MoHS while RFWG is chaired by the Deputy Director General of Department of Public Health and RFFT is chaired by the Director of NNC. The team will attempt to participate actively in this high-level NSCG to better communicate the drafted policy documents with MoHS for ministerial approval. So far, PATH has been involved in the NSCG in drafting the Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018–2022, which mentions fortified rice as an effective intervention.</p> <p>PATH, with the technical support of NUDI and the FFI, produced two landscape analyses: 1) A Landscape Analysis of Myanmar Rice Sector and 2) A Rice Fortification Supply Chain Assessment & Opportunities for Myanmar, to provide further information to MoHS for finalisation of the National Rice Fortification Policy. These analyses will particularly contribute to recommend fortified rice delivery options and to offer inputs for a policy implication analysis. The policy implication analysis would assess the potential impacts of various policy options in male/female food security, livelihoods and nutrition. PATH is closely working with the University of Washington to produce that analysis by quarter two of 2018. Then, Path plans to complete the final policy draft and receive the Ministry's approval by quarter 3 of the same year. By advocating FDA, PATH has also drafted the first version of the technical production guidelines for rice fortification.</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>The Dry Zone Social Protection Project: This project aims to build sustainable community-based mechanisms for addressing vulnerability in the Dry Zone, while promoting capacities of DSW and regional governments to gradually implement community efforts in line with the National Social Protection Strategic Plan. The project worked in the six LIFT-targeted townships across the Dry Zone.</p> <p>In 2017, the project provided capacity building trainings for sustainable village-based social protection to local CSOs in project villages. These CSOs also gained experience from household vulnerability mapping exercise conducted by the project. After that, these villages received the project's Social Protection Emergency Fund to implement village-based social protection mechanisms.</p> <p>The project also supported local government authorities in the six townships to enhance social protection capacity. The project provided a two-day workshop on social protection awareness, disability and cash transfer mechanisms to 203 staff members from the village level GAD. Then the project personnel and these local government personnel worked together with township government officials to provide cash transfers for old age pension and PwD support. After that, the project team shared its experience of delivering public cash transfers with the union government during the cash transfer process conference in Nay Pyi Taw. The project also provided technical support for the cash transfer workshop for state/regional DSW and GAD for the National Social Protection Scheme in Nay Pyi Taw.</p>
<p>Policy Issue: Social Pensions for the Elderly</p> <p>LIFT IP: HelpAge International Myanmar</p> <p>Collaborators: Mandalay YMCA, 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.</p> <p>2017 started with enactment of the Law Relating to Older Persons by the Parliament. Receiving technical lead from the project, DSW conducted consultative process with major stakeholders to formulate the law and presented the draft law to the parliament. The project also played the lead technical partner role in establishment of the National Committee on Ageing, stipulated by the Law, in August 2017.</p> <p>In the implementation of the old age social pension scheme, one of the NSPSP flagship programmes, the project also served as the lead technical partner of DSW in developing and implementing the universal social pension delivery system by DSW and GAD. As a result, the national social pension scheme has been successfully rolled out with 35,405 elderly people of 90 years old and above in June, 40,700 in September.</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 of Pilot: This project pilots the implementation of social protection policies of the Sagaing Regional Government by closely working with traditional community organizations. It conducted a three year pilot programme in Myaung Township programme to strengthen traditional community organisations and systems to deliver social protection.</p> <p>During 2017, the project reached out to an additional 21 villages with a total of 40 village coverage in Myaung Township. These villages received seed fund of MMK 450,000 per village. Accountable village organizations invested seed money to increase funding, mostly giving interest loans to individuals and local businesses. Then these organizations used accumulated interests/profits to provide social assistance (in cash or in kind) to persons/households in need. After one year round, a total of MMK 172 million seed fund remained in full amount after interest/profit MMK 52 million were used up for social assistance to 1,649 beneficiaries. The project also piloted MCCT 1000 days together with community organizations in these villages, based on existing local social protection system.</p>

Rural Development

<p>Policy Issue: Technical Assistance to DRD on rural development planning</p> <p>LIFT technical assistance team</p> <p>Collaborator: DRD</p>	<p>In late 2013, DRD was assigned by the government to operationalize the Strategic Framework for Rural Development, a generic framework of bottom-up rural development planning process. DRD requested LIFT's technical support to do this assignment and LIFT agreed. Hence, LIFT TA Team has assisted DRD to develop a national model for village development planning and investment programming process and build DRD's and villages' capacity to pilot the model in all states and regions. The established model has been institutionalized within DRD.</p> <p>In 2017, the LIFT TA Team continued technical support to the DRD to expand the bottom-up planning in villages. With technical support of the team, DRD has assisted 8,600 villages in 49 townships to complete their Village Development Plans (VDPs) and Annual Village Investment Plans (AVIPs) with bottom-up approach. The AVIP informs village investment programs while VDP informs village socio-economic situation and population/household information. TA Team worked with DRD to develop a mechanism to consolidate both VDPs and AVIPs into rural dimension of township development plans and annual township investment programs.</p>
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LIFT Studies delivered in 2017

Nutrition

<p>Legacy paper 1: The role of men in nutrition LIFT</p> <p>Topics: Nutrition, gender</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This legacy paper examines men's involvement in the Delta RISE project and why their participation is relatively high. It also investigates the barriers and importance of male participation in nutrition projects.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The research suggests that men's interest in nutrition training and activities substantially increases when nutrition is linked to topics they are already interested in and areas they consider to be their responsibility, such as natural resource management and agricultural practices. Raising awareness about the importance of proper nutrition for the long-term health of the household is crucial to encouraging more men to participate in nutrition activities. Video production and the use of radio can be particularly powerful tools to communicate messages.</p>
<p>Assessing the Requirements for Food and Nutrition Security Concept Mapping Research Study MIID, Cornell University</p> <p>Topics: Food security, income generation, best practices</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>Assessing requirements for food and nutrition security in 24 villages of Hakha Township in Chin State through a concept mapping methodology is a pilot action research study that is part of the project Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agricultural Extension, Nutrition Education and Institution Building in Rural Chin State. The project aims to increase incomes for rural households and improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children in rural Chin communities through providing education and information on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, food production and upland farming practices, good nutrition practices including food safety, sanitation and hygiene practices, and strengthening local institutions.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The study suggests that two factors are important for increasing the availability and accessibility of food for households in the project villages. Firstly, farmers need to know more about improved food production technologies (crop, livestock and fisheries); crop diversification; modernised upland farming practices; soil and water management; access to agricultural inputs, including quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides. Secondly, they need more knowledge about post-harvest issues; including storage, processing, value-addition activities and market access. In terms of food utilisation, farmers and community members have poor or limited knowledge of nutrition, dietary diversity, food safety and good hygiene practices. Education and advisory services are greatly needed by farmers.</p>
<p>Barriers And Enablers Of Agriculture And Nutrition Behaviours In Chin State Catholic Relief Services, KMSS</p> <p>Topics: Stunting, behaviour change.</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Myanmar is implementing a three-year (2016-2019) LIFT-funded project called Productive Agriculture through Community Engagement (PACE). PACE seeks to contribute to efforts in improving nutritional outcomes, specifically stunting rates of children aged under five. Within PACE target villages, PACE aims to increase sustainable farm production and improve dietary diversity among smallholder farmers and pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 23 months. To achieve these objectives, PACE promotes the adoption of nutritious feeding and eating practices among women and children aged between 6-23 months. In support of these nutrition behaviours, PACE addresses issues of harvest loss and access to nutritious food all year round. In both components, behaviour change is fundamental, and SBCC approaches underpin the mechanisms for promoting behaviour change.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The key results of the barrier analysis on breastfeeding women eating two extra bowls of food each day uncovered four significant determinants: self-efficacy, cue for action, access, and social norms. The project will aim to: increase skills to prepare meals mothers would enjoy using nutritious locally-available ingredients; reduce the perception that meat is the only good or tasty food/meal; encourage mothers to remember to eat two extra bowls each day while breastfeeding; increase access to staple and nutritious crops year-round, and increase husbands' involvement in their family's nutrition.</p>
<p>Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor in Northern Kayin State: Nutritional Causal Analysis World Concern Myanmar, CDN-ZOA, CORDAID, and SNV</p> <p>Topic: Dietary intake, disease</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>World Concern Myanmar with consortium partners CDN-ZOA (lead), CORDAID and SNV received funding from LIFT to implement interventions for improving the incomes and nutrition outcomes of rural poor in Thandaunggyi Township, in northern Kayin State. During the inception phase of the project, a nutrition causal analysis study was carried out by World Concern Myanmar in Thandaunggyi Township. The aim of the study was to provide a more nuanced understanding of the underlying causes of undernutrition and their causal pathways in Thandaunggyi Township in Kayin.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Prevalence of malnutrition in Thandaunggyi Township is very high with 53.7 per cent of children being stunted, 15.1 per cent wasted and 33.3 per cent underweight. Stunting levels are very high in all sub-townships (above 40 per cent) among all income groups, and are equally high among boys and girls. Immediate causes of these high rates of malnutrition were found to be inadequate dietary intake and disease.</p>

<p>Securing Positive Nutritional Outcomes through Agriculture Extension and Institution Building in Rural Chin State (NOAC) MIID – Dawt Hlei Tial</p> <p>Topics: aquaculture, nutrition</p>	<p>PURPOSE The population of rural Hakha Township has a limited dietary intake of proteins. Improving aquaculture could contribute to available and affordable protein sources in people diet, in order to improve nutrition. MIID conducted a general orientation on the feasibility of aquaculture in 6 villages in Hakha.</p> <p>FINDINGS All observed fish farmers are practicing extensive or semi-intensive aquaculture with little to no supplemental food. Although the fish farmers were exposed to aquaculture training supported by Department of Fisheries, the knowledge about aquaculture is still limited. The farmers focus more on traditional small scale aquaculture, rather than adopting a commercial approach. Although money from funds can support aquaculture, willingness to invest time and money in aquaculture is still limited.</p>
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Agriculture

<p>Agriculture Expenditure Review: Increasing the Impact of Public Spending on Agricultural Growth IBRD, World Bank</p> <p>Topic: Public expenditure</p>	<p>PURPOSE This first-ever Agricultural Public Expenditure Review is an important step towards deepening the policy dialogue on improving the impact of public services on agricultural growth and other developmental objectives. It covers the period from 2009/10 to 2016/17, analysing the budgets of the Union Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, selected Regions and States, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank's financing, and donors. The review focuses on allocative and implementation efficiencies of public expenditures.</p> <p>FINDINGS The review recommends that in the current budget-constrained environment, the first-order priority for achieving a higher impact of public spending on Myanmar's agriculture should be improving the use of existing funds and attracting donor funds to select critically underfunded programs. The review recommends to: (i) use a strategic framework set up by the Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan (ASIP) to rebalance the functional and economic composition of the agricultural budget; (ii) reallocate some parts of the irrigation and mechanisation capital budgets to other programs; (iii) shift some funds from capital to non-wage recurrent budget, especially for irrigation operations and management and extension programs; and (iv) carry out an institutional review of MoALI to identify further scope for reallocation of funds.</p>
<p>Agronomy Curricula at Myanmar State Agriculture Institutes and Yezin University MIID, Cornell University</p> <p>Topic: Education</p>	<p>PURPOSE The goal of this study was to consider the curriculum currently being used at the 14 State Agricultural Institutes (SAIs) in Myanmar and recommend changes that would result in graduates with the required competencies to serve in all states across the country: in government service, private industry, education, NGOs and agricultural production. In particular, the study considered this question from the point of view of the Chin State to determine if the curriculum serves the needs of those who will eventually work there.</p> <p>FINDINGS For the most part, there is a positive assessment of the curriculum at the SAIs. The courses are well planned and it was felt that a graduate of the three-year program would be well prepared to enter employment in agriculture or transfer to Yezin University. While there are some emerging gaps in the curriculum, and the examples used are mostly from low-land agriculture, overall the outcome of the study is a positive valuation of the curriculum.</p>
<p>Ten Years of Technological Change in Dry Zone Agriculture FSP Research – MSU, CESD, IFPRI</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topic: Technological modernization, productivity</p>	<p>PURPOSE This report outlines changes in agricultural practices for the main field crops grown in Myanmar's Dry Zone between 2007 and 2017, based on information gathered from the Rural Economy and Agriculture Dry Zone (READZ) survey. One objective of the survey was to assess trends in production patterns and practices of four of the major field crops grown in the area: rice, groundnut, sesame, and green gram.</p> <p>FINDINGS The analysis of changes in agricultural practices over the past 10 years reveals several important trends: (i) The agricultural sector is modernising. Irrigation is expanding gradually and mechanisation is occurring rapidly; (ii) Changes in technology are accompanied by slight shifts in seasonal cropping patterns, with pre-monsoon increasingly gaining ground as the main growing season for groundnut and green gram, likely reflecting increasing access to irrigation from sources other than dams; (iii) Yields do not appear to follow a similarly rising pattern. Yields of rice have increased modestly, but yields of green gram and groundnut showed no significant change. Meanwhile, sesame yields were significantly lower in 2017 than 2007, and (iv) Investment in better adapted, higher yielding key crop varieties and dissemination of improved crop management practices are needed to increase the efficiency of input use, and raise agricultural productivity and profitability.</p>

<p>Crop Production and Profitability in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Feed the Future – Ame Cho, Ben Belton, Duncan Boughton</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topics: Crop cultivation, irrigation</p>	<p>PURPOSE Agriculture is central to Myanmar’s rural economy, and the Ayeyarwady Delta and Yangon Region are considered to be the country’s ‘rice bowl’. Yet few detailed data are available on the characteristics of agriculture in this important area. The Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey (MAAS) addressed this knowledge gap through a statistically representative survey of 329 agricultural households in Maubin, Nyaungdon, Twantay and Kayan townships in Ayeyarwady and Yangon regions, as part of a larger survey of 1,102 rural households.</p> <p>FINDINGS The following recommendations are made: (i) undertake benefit-cost analysis of improved drainage to allow increased paddy cultivation in low-lying areas in the monsoon season; (ii) increase access to irrigation for dry season crop cultivation; (iii) enhance access to improved varieties for all major crops; (iv) identify pulses varieties that allow mechanised harvesting; (v) encourage crop and livestock diversification; and (vi) improve the productivity and profitability of green gram production (varieties, irrigation access, integrated pest management).</p>
<p>Aquaculture in Myanmar: Fish Farm Technology, Production Economics and Management Feed the Future – Ben Belton, Mateusz Filipiński and Chaoran Hu</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topic: Aquaculture</p>	<p>PURPOSE Aquaculture fish farming has grown rapidly in Myanmar over the past 20 years and plays an increasingly important role in national fish supply. But its technical and economic characteristics have been poorly studied. This report addresses this knowledge gap by presenting data from the first statistically representative survey of fish farms conducted in Myanmar - the Myanmar Aquaculture-Agriculture Survey (MAAS).</p> <p>FINDINGS Survey results provide a comprehensive ‘benchmark’ of the characteristics of inland aquaculture in Myanmar. Features analysed include: farm productivity and profitability; farm size; production cycle duration; use of feed, seed and other production inputs; demand for labour; harvesting and marketing behaviours; technological change; the economic and social characteristics of fish farming households, and land access and tenure.</p>
<p>Rice Seed Supply and Demand Systems in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar Abishkar Subedi, Marja Thijssen, Genevieve Audet-Bélanger, Tin Maung Shwe, and Naing Lin Oo. Center of Development and Innovation (CoB), University of Wapeningen</p> <p>Topic: Seed value chain</p>	<p>PURPOSE The study aims to provide LIFT with recommendations for its future investments for improving the rice seed sector’s performance in an integrated and sustainable way, in order to enhance farmer’s access to quality seed of superior varieties and contribute to food security and economic development. The study consisted of three components: (i) a seed use survey; (ii) a seed supply survey, and (iii) a seed sector assessment. Based on these study components the study team was able to link variety, seed use and supply to develop a scenario for forecasting seed demand.</p> <p>FINDINGS The study showed that 82 per cent of rice growers in the lower delta, and 95 per cent in the upper delta use one or two varieties per rice growing season. A generally observed trend is that with the commercialisation of a crop, the number of varieties grown by individual farmers reduces. The main selection criteria for varieties are yielding potential, adaptability to soil conditions, market price and maturity period. The majority of the farmers 96 per cent in the lower delta and 70 per cent in the upper delta source their seed either from their own fields, or from other informal seed sources. Ninety per cent of farmers consciously select their seed based on the appearance in the field or at harvest. The seed sector analysis showed that seed systems in the Ayeyarwady delta can be generalised into three clusters: (i) informal seed systems; (ii) formal seed systems; and (iii) intermediary seed systems with facilitated loose or temporary linkages to the formal systems. Based on our studies we have formulated recommendations for strengthening the Ayeyarwady Delta rice seed sector. There are five building blocks of rice seed sector transformation: (i) strengthening of demand; (ii) organisation of the production base; (iii) organisation of the service sectors; (iv) public sector governance; and (v) sector alignment and accountability.</p>
<p>Kayin State Cardamom Value Chain Analysis Report SNV Netherlands Development Organisation</p> <p>Topics: Value chains, nutrition</p>	<p>PURPOSE The cardamom value chain analysis was conducted as part of the technical support of SNV Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) to the Consortium of Dutch NGOs (CDN) in Improving the Incomes and Nutrition Outcomes of Rural Poor in Northern Kayin State project. The study was undertaken from March to May 2017 and covered the assessment of the production and trade in selected townships in Kayin State.</p> <p>FINDINGS Several opportunities and constraints in the assessment of the cardamom value chain were identified. Firstly, most farmers have access to land that is conducive for cardamom production. There is a steady market for the product. Sufficient traders are present from the village up to the regional level. Technologies for production and processing are readily available. However several constraints have been identified. Fragmented production and marketing results in farmers not being able to negotiate better prices. The produce is of a low quality due to improper drying and post-harvest handling. Traders are unwilling to pay a premium price for good quality. There is a lack of access to up-to-date market information. Farmers and traders are paying high facilitation fees to government authorities like road personnel, customs offices and Department of Forestry, in order to speed up transport and obtain required shipment and transport documents. This can also be attributed to poor cardamom trade and export policies and ineffective implementation.</p>

<p>Market Survey of Uplands Food Security and Participation in Markets (UFS-PM) In Kachin and Northern Shan States Metta Development Foundation</p> <p>Topics: value chain analysis, food safety</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>The aim of this market study is to provide reference data for development of business plan particularly market plan and to identify possible product buyers for each cluster management committee (CMC). The study provides several value chain analyses for agricultural products in Southern Kachin and Northern Shan, including edible oils, soy beans, elephant foot yams, ginger, and turmeric. The survey also examines how to best facilitate linkages between the participating farming communities and the market, both locally and regionally.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Among the findings for edible oils, the report identifies that marketing and promotion of food safety among consumers will help boost the value chain. There should be a specific attention to the diverse ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds of the consumers when developing the market strategy. For soy beans, elephant foot yam, and ginger and turmeric, market information from large broker sale centers and local market, including transactions costs and the price difference between raw and semi-finished goods, needs to be shared and considered by farmers when selling their produce.</p>
<p>Land Tenure</p>	
<p>Land Tenure in Rural Lowland Myanmar: From historical perspectives to contemporary realities in the Dry Zone and the Delta GRET</p> <p>Topics: Land insecurity, legislation, colonialisation.</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This study emerged out of identified needs to document social processes leading to land insecurity, and those leading to investment and sustainable use of lands by rural population. Focusing on the Delta and Dry Zone, the main paddy producing regions of Myanmar, this analysis unravels the powers at play in shaping rural households' relationship to land. From British colonisation to the 2012 reforms, many issues have remained relatively unchanged with regards to local dynamics of landlessness, exclusion processes, local power plays, restrictions in farmers' land rights and the State's excessive focus on rice. In the midst of a rapidly changing legal context, this work provides a typology of farmers and the landless and argues that more attention needs to be paid to understand the diversity of rural households and forms of landlessness.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The occurrence of landlessness has much to do with historical and agricultural features of the studied zones. The Dry Zone is the cradle of Burmese society, with long-established villages and stronger social organisation, while the Delta is a frontier society and has been more impacted by policies such as the compulsory paddy quota. For these reasons, landlessness rates are often higher in the Delta than in Dry Zone villages. In addition, there are strong disparities between villages of the same region, highlighting the complexity and intertwinement of different factors – such as agro-ecological conditions and the importance of power relations at the local level – for determining land access. These disparities demonstrate that large-scale surveys and uniform 'one size fits all' solutions on land tenure bear risks as they are not able to effectively address local and context-specific problems. Land redistribution projects should, for instance, prioritise older agrarian landless households (whose head is more than 40 years old) and landless households relying mainly on farm-labour.</p>
<p>Agricultural Land in Myanmar's Dry Zone FSP Research – Aung Hein, Isabel Lambrecht, Kyaw Lwin & Ben Belton</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topics: Governance, agricultural practices</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>Myanmar has high levels of landlessness and an uneven distribution of land among landed households, despite an abundance of land per head of population relative to other countries in the region. Land is a central issue in the post-2016 policy landscape, and efforts to provide restitution for widespread land confiscations that occurred during the period of military rule form a major pillar of the current government's governance agenda. In this research highlight, research on agricultural land use, distribution, access, tenure, land markets, and historical patterns of ownership and disposal is presented.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>(i) As anticipated, levels of landlessness in Myanmar's Central Dry Zone are high, at 40 per cent; (ii) Rain-fed uplands accounts for the majority of agricultural land in the surveyed communities; (iii) Unlike in many other areas of the country, possession of formal land use certificates (Form 7) is the norm; (iv) Indebtedness was the most common reason for the loss of agricultural land, being cited in 39 per cent of cases; (v) Landlessness has increased inter-generationally, while average farm size declined, and (vi) Land access arrangements other than ownership are rare, with land shared-, leased- and mortgaged-in together accounting for just 3.4 per cent of all agricultural parcels operated.</p>
<p>Land Reallocation Assessment: Yea Le Gyi Village, Taw Ta Lite Village Tract, Maubin Township GRET</p> <p>Topic: Land allocation</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This study, as part of the GRET Land Tenure Project, helps to understand rural land issues in Myanmar. Through key informant interviews and focus group discussions, information about the local history, livelihoods, land use, and land allocation processes of the area was collected.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The land allocation process was properly carried out, due to the clearly defined steps in the procedures, the criteria for the selection of the beneficiaries, the proper measurement of the land plots, and a lottery system for land allocations was clearly communicated to the beneficiaries.</p>

<p>Land Reallocation Assessment: Shwe Hlay Thuang Village Tract, Maubin Township LIFT</p> <p>Topic: Land allocation</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>As part of the GRET Land Tenure Project, this study helps in the understanding of rural land issues in Myanmar. The Shwe Hlay Thuang Village Tract is composed of six villages, in which relocations due to flooding and river bank collapses happened frequently, leading to land disputes. In this study the historical and recent processes of land allocation are examined.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Most of land consists of alluvial lands, which are particularly complex to manage due to their moving nature, which leads to high tenure insecurity. Local practices conflict with the 2012 Farmland Rules when it comes to newly emerging alluvial land, leading to tensions among the villages. The yearly land granting process adds a layer complexity through of power abuse by village tract authorities. Systematic measuring and better definition of alluvial versus stable land will allow for more considerate land allocation.</p>
<p>Persistence and change in Hakha Chin Land and Resource Tenure GRET</p> <p>Topics: peri-urban land tenure, access to land</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This research aims at documenting Hakha land tenure systems and their evolution since the British annexation times, in order to better understand the issues faced by Chin people. This research is part of a series of studies focusing on peri-urban land dynamics, and has been conducted in Hakha and surrounding villages. The peri-urban setting is a particularly rich field for analysing current and foreseeing future changes that may affect land tenure.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Although state penetration in the Chin region has intensified since the 1990s, the research identifies the Chin land tenure as an always adapting system, yet with its limitations and shortfalls in a fast changing context. The report critically analyses the so-called customary land tenure frameworks, and provides reflections on the often non-criticised stance that the customary land tenure systems in Myanmar should be formalised. Finally, it provides leads to secure land access for a majority of Chin households.</p>

Financial Inclusion

<p>Agricultural Credit Access and Utilization in Myanmar's Dry Zone FSP Research – Khun Moe Htun and Myat Su Tin</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topics: Agricultural credit and loans, micro-finance</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This research highlight presents findings on access to and use of agricultural credit by farm households in Myanmar's Central Dry Zone. It analyses access to, terms and utilisation of agricultural loans from the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) and other sources over the 12 months preceding the survey.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>(i) Credit is the second most important source of finance for agricultural investment, after income from previous crops; (ii) Government is the major player in the rural credit sector; (iii) Access to MADB loans is highly unequal; (iv) The average value of MADB loans received by paddy farmers was almost three times higher than that received by non-paddy farmers, despite the former having considerably smaller average landholdings; (v) In the townships surveyed, almost no MADB loans were available outside of monsoon season; (vi) Loans provided by microfinance institutions account for only a small share of credit invested in crop farming, in terms of both number and value of loans; and (vii) Agricultural labour and agricultural machinery rental costs make up a significant portion of production costs for most major crops.</p>
<p>Women's Empowerment Study of Selected LIFT Microfinance Partners Joan Hall & Myanmar Survey Research</p> <p>Topics: Gender, microfinance</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>The rationale of this study is to attempt to answer questions about the impact of microfinance by three selected LIFT microfinance partners on women's empowerment.. At the same time, it aims to help validate LIFT's new gender strategy. Thirdly, it hopes to inform the design of a future quantitative study on the subject. Finally, it contains recommendations to help improve the impact of LIFT microfinance activities on women's empowerment, and offers suggestions for other types of donor interventions.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>The findings show that the microfinance contributes to an increase in a member's self-confidence and self-worth, and that both the financial activities and the group microfinance meetings are important. The findings also show that in the majority, the decision-making process is the same as it was before the access to microfinance. There are many factors in the household decision-making process and hierarchy that are beyond the reach of microfinance to influence. There were a few cases, however, of women reporting that their negotiating position had been strengthened due to earning more income for the household.</p>

Gender

<p>Transformative Women Leaders in Myanmar Society Gender Equality Network</p> <p>Co-funded by CARE Myanmar and Trócaire</p> <p>Topic: Women's empowerment</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>The publication documents and honours the capacities and empowerment of women from a variety of professions in Myanmar's society. The book was produced together with Mizzima Media.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>We do believe that learning their life experiences would grant us a chance to understand their abilities, attitudes, and endeavours more, that enlighten everyone with the importance and usefulness of women's roles and works in numerous sectors of the society such as politics, peace process, sports, economy, and health, leading not only to furnish women with opportunities to empower themselves and also to create an enabling environment to employ their full potential.</p>
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<p>Gender & Politics In Myanmar. Women and Men Candidates in the 2015 Election Gender Equality Network</p> <p>Co-funded by Trócaire, Pyoe Pin, and CARE Myanmar</p> <p>Topics: political participation, leadership</p>	<p>PURPOSE Following the November 2015 elections, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi became the de facto leader of Myanmar, the first time a woman has held this position. However, representation in Myanmar's parliaments remains highly unequal in terms of gender. Women make up only 1 in 10 of Myanmar's MPs, and Myanmar is ranked 159 out of 191 countries on the proportion of national-level parliamentarians that are women, i.e. it is in the bottom 20% of countries globally.</p> <p>FINDINGS Women are considerably less likely than men in Myanmar to work outside of the home, which reduces the pool of potential women MPs. Nevertheless, women are employed in large numbers in many of the occupations that MPs are most commonly drawn from, and so gender differences in employment patterns should not be overstated as a factor for women's low level of political participation. In Myanmar, women are more likely than men to have completed high school and to hold a bachelor's degree or above. Gender differences in formal educational attainment cannot explain why there are so few women MPs.</p>
<p>Myanmar's First Female Farmers Forum: Reflections and Findings for Women's Land Governance LCG</p> <p>Topics: Land right, political representation</p>	<p>PURPOSE Due to the current ongoing changes in Myanmar's legal and political framework, it is a crucial moment to consider how women farmers; and their important role in agriculture can be recognised and supported in laws and policies. This briefing paper puts forward the key issues facing female farmers, as highlighted by participants in Myanmar's first Female Farmers' Forum, and provides suggestions to policy-makers for building a more equitable national framework.</p> <p>FINDINGS Despite regional variations, participants articulated several common themes and challenges they faced as women farmers. These include the influence of cultural traditions in work life, perceived gendered inequalities in the application of laws, obstacles to involvement in decision-making, and lack of opportunities for training, information, and support. To ensure legal frameworks and government institutions protect and recognise the needs and voices of women farmers, policy-makers and program managers should: revise registration procedures to promote women's tenure, install a quota of 30 per cent female representation in Farmland Administration Bodies, include women in land governance bodies, provide women-targeted training, and research women's land use across the country.</p>
<p>Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study on Gender, Food and Nutrition in Hakha LIFT</p> <p>Topics: Nutrition, gender, behaviour change.</p>	<p>PURPOSE This study on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) aims at understanding the complex realities of women and men related to gender, food and nutrition. The study focuses on people's knowledge related to food production, preparation and consumption and looks at possible misunderstandings, misconceptions or misinformation in their comprehension. Next, it examines people's attitudes, including preferences, tendencies and beliefs, linked to food and nutrition. Finally, the study analyses people's practices or the application of their comprehensions and the role gender dynamics play in these practices related to food and nutrition in their everyday life.</p> <p>FINDINGS The findings of this study hint at potential obstacles to the future project activities, particularly barriers to behaviour change, as well as at gender-related, untapped resources related to nutrition. The conclusions offer suggested strategies that could produce positive effects at overcoming these barriers, and the design of innovative project activities that enhance the equal cooperation between women and men whilst creating a more equitable living environment.</p>

Livelihoods

<p>LIFT Household Survey 2015 LIFT FMO</p> <p>Topics: food security, nutrition, statistical data.</p>	<p>PURPOSE LIFT conducted a baseline household survey in late 2011 covering 252 villages. Subsequent surveys covered 200 villages in 2013 and 300 villages in 2015, including the expanded LIFT programme area. This report focuses on the results of trend analyses for 60 villages in the Delta, Dry and Uplands zones where LIFT was active and that were surveyed in all three data collection rounds.</p> <p>FINDINGS The LIFT household surveys highlight the tremendous scale and pace of change that took place in LIFT villages. Nearly all indicators showed dramatic increases from 2011 to 2013 and increases, albeit smaller than in the previous years, from 2013 to 2015. By 2015, households in LIFT villages enjoyed far greater food security, owned more assets, had greater access to credit and had reduced rates of malnutrition and stunting. Whilst the findings presented in this report need to be understood within the context of the changes taking place across Myanmar over this period, these household surveys and this report provide a framework and context from which programme effect can begin to be understood.</p>
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<p>Livelihoods & Social Change in Rural Myanmar - Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring (QSEM) Series World Bank, EMReF</p> <p>Topic: Rural transformation</p>	<p>PURPOSE This is the sixth and final round of a research programme examining people's livelihood strategies and activities, the wider factors that shape those strategies, and how the broader social and institutional features of community life affect livelihood choices and outcomes. The study covers 63 villages in four states (Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan) and three regions (Ayeerwady, Magway, and Mandalay) across Myanmar. The research, which has been running since 2012, is now one of the largest and longest-running panel studies of its kind. It provides a unique lens through which to understand how Myanmar's transition is playing out in rural villages and affecting how people make a living, cope with, and adapt to shocks and stresses, and engage with village institutions and the state.</p> <p>FINDINGS Since the research began in 2012, households in QSEM villages have seen significant change and faced much uncertainty. Between 2012 and 2015, the government passed new land and village governance laws, liberalised telecommunications, and increased investment in infrastructure and public services. Access to credit in rural areas increased, and the private sector's investment in agriculture grew. In 2015, the government reached a nationwide ceasefire agreement with several ethnic armed groups, held democratic elections, and transferred political power peacefully to the opposition party. These changes have provided opportunities for rural households. Yet such households have also faced deep uncertainty caused by a range of shocks and stresses mainly related to climate and the rural economy.</p>
<p>Rural Off-Farm Incomes in Myanmar's Dry Zone FSP Research – Aye Myint Zu, Htet Htet Khine, Khin Zin Win, Sithu Kyaw</p> <p>Co-funded by USAID</p> <p>Topic: Off-farm employment</p>	<p>PURPOSE This research highlight presents findings on key features of rural off-farm work and incomes in Myanmar's Dry Zone. It is based on analysis of data collected by the Rural Economy and Agriculture in Dry Zone (READZ) survey in 2017.</p> <p>FINDINGS Results highlight the diversity of the off-farm economy in the Dry Zone and the growing reliance on off-farm income sources among rural households. The report presents an overview of off-farm incomes in the Dry Zone, an analysis of the details of rural employment, and an analysis of patterns in self-employment.</p>
<p>Labor Market Survey Tanintharyi Region Covenant Consult</p> <p>Topics: Employment, skill supply and demand</p>	<p>PURPOSE The Enhanced Livelihoods for Displace People Project (ELDP) Consortium commissioned a labour market survey at the end of 2016 in three townships - Dawei, Thayetchaung, Palaw in the Tanintharyi Region with a focus on internally- displaced Karen people. The findings of the survey helped identify potential vocational training courses for the Karen Vocational Training Center, which will be established as part of a 3-year LIFT- funded project.</p> <p>FINDINGS The labour market survey revealed that basic personal skills, which are needed for a well-functioning labor market, are not present. The absent of personal motivation by young people in particular is alarming. Fifteen per cent of interviewees had previously migrated to other countries, mainly Thailand, to seek better job opportunities. However, only 6 per cent indicated they had currently plans to leave the region to seek better job opportunities. Most are confident that the economic situation of the region will improve in the short term.</p> <p>The demand for vocational training courses in the secondary or tertiary sector is high. Vocational training courses, such as masonry, carpentry, sewing and hospitality are in great need and should be supplemented by short-term trainings, such as English, computer courses and entrepreneurship. Such trainings will enable Karen people to become more semi-skilled and skilled workers with higher incomes than unskilled workers and will enable them to participate in the growing local economy.</p>

Conflict

<p>Legacy paper: Learnings from Kyaukpyu and Tat Lan II LIFT</p> <p>Topics: Trust building, strategic partnerships.</p>	<p>PURPOSE One of LIFT's Tat Lan projects in Rakhine concluded in early 2017 providing an opportune moment to reflect on lessons from this work. This legacy paper focuses on how the project team developed and maintained trust amongst stakeholders, and the role trust had to play in establishing greater social accountability.</p> <p>FINDINGS Key to the success of this project was building strong working relationships and strategic partnerships. Oxfam and Scholar Institute complemented each other and together had the skills, experience and local knowledge to build trust with the local stakeholders and support the establishment of a more socially-accountable social contract. Conflict-sensitive programming is important for building trust. It requires the continuous analysis and reanalysis of the context and how programmes are interacting within the context. Adapting and responding to the evolving context is key.</p>
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Civil Society

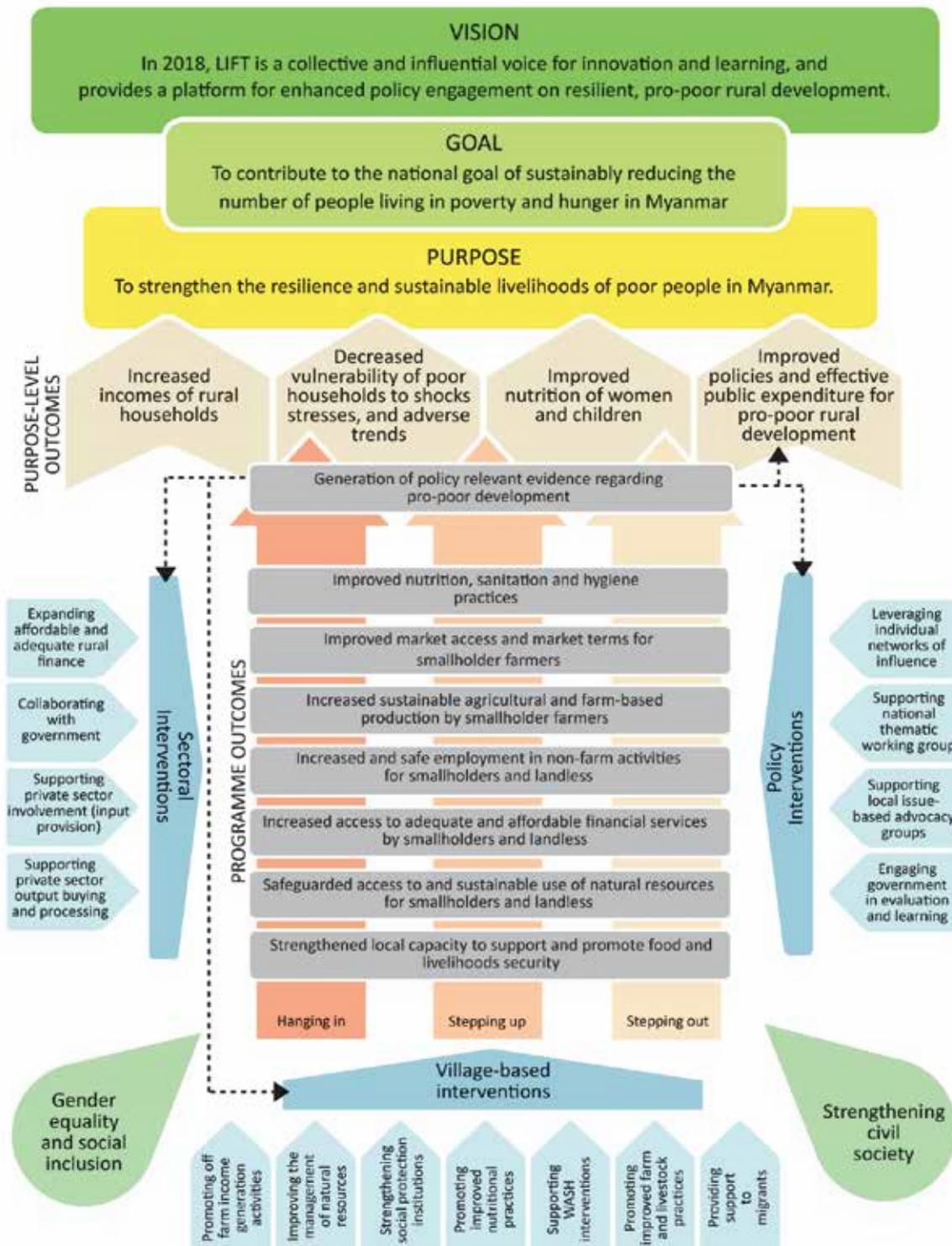
<p>Synthesis Report: Evaluation of Three Myanmar Networks Mary-Jane Rivers, Don Clarke, Win Win Myint, Nan Ma Ma Myo</p> <p>Topics: Network development, food security</p> <p><i>Note: original document produced in 2016, officially launched in April 2017</i></p>	<p>PURPOSE This report provides an overall synthesis of the findings and learning from evaluations of the three networks: the Food Security Working Group (FSWG), Gender Equality Network (GEN) and the Land Core Group (LCG). It includes an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges that face these three networking organisations in Myanmar, and recommendations to LIFT for network development in Myanmar and how it can be effectively supported.</p> <p>FINDINGS The synthesis report looks at the place, value and characteristics of the networks and briefly at the dual contexts of civil society and food security in Myanmar. It then identifies the similarities and differences among the networks, the integration of gender by FSWG and LCG, and the scope of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges.</p>
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Resilience

<p>Risk, Reward and Resilience in Rural Communities Dr. Mike Griffiths</p> <p>Topics: Risk reduction, vulnerability, interventions</p>	<p>PURPOSE This study, of 150 households across 6 different regions in rural Myanmar, highlights the changing nature of risks, the emergence of new hazards and re-iterations of older threats. The complex association between development, development interventions, and the reconfiguration of risks represents a significant challenge for many rural communities.</p> <p>FINDINGS The conceptualisation of resilience emerging from this study points to the value of measuring resilience by looking for actions which both stem from, and contribute to, greater resilience: coping, both ex-ante and ex-post which show both a capacity to absorb and respond, and which would be expected to lead to the maintenance, and strengthening of that capacity in the future. Added to this, multi-dimensional models of vulnerability appear to be appropriate for understanding vulnerability in rural areas, allowing for more nuanced understandings of how vulnerability is expressed in different groups, and is influenced by a range of local and demographic factors such as gender.</p>
<p>Resilience in rural Myanmar: a conceptual analysis. Dr. Mike Griffiths</p> <p>Topics: Complex adaptive systems, models of resilience</p>	<p>PURPOSE This paper presents the results of an extensive literature review on resilience, as well as the findings of empirical research on resilience in rural communities in Myanmar. Given the vast scope of the subject, as well as the differing degrees of interest from readers, this paper is written as a kind of 'grab bag' reference document, presenting the evidence and analysis under a series of headings, rather than as a single, flowing document. This allows both for more detailed, technical and referenced discussions, as well as presentation of empirical research findings.</p> <p>FINDINGS Models of resilience should be context-specific, and need to take into account threats/disturbances which are experienced or perceived locally, as well as capacities and governing frameworks which are relevant to the context, in this case rural communities in Myanmar. Interventions to reduce vulnerability, increase incomes and income diversity, as well as to strengthen community processes, gender equality and access to finance all show significant potential to be linked with measurable improvements in household resilience.</p>
<p>From vulnerable to resilient: analyzing LIFT's household data Dr. Mike Griffiths</p> <p>Topics: vulnerability, adaptive capacity</p>	<p>PURPOSE The purpose of this report is to lay the foundations for measuring and analysing LIFT's contributions to the stated high level outcome 'decreased vulnerability of poor households to shocks, stresses and adverse trends' and in particular the extent to which changes in vulnerability have resulted in changes to the purpose of LIFT's programme: "to strengthen the resilience and sustainable livelihoods of poor people in Myanmar".</p> <p>FINDINGS LIFT's project activities, particularly those relating to healthcare, livelihoods, water and sanitation, food security and reducing economic dependency are associated with reductions in vulnerabilities in those categories, suggesting-but at this stage not proving-impact of those activities in the places they are being implemented. Overall, the study demonstrates the value of using a complex model to measure and analyse vulnerability, and the potential benefit of vulnerability models to identify thresholds for interventions, and long-term, to measure the impact of interventions.</p>

<p>Lift Relevance And Sustainability Study: First assessment of the LIFT-level Evaluation and Learning Questions on Relevance and Sustainability. (Draft Report) Steve Gossage</p> <p>Topics: Sustainability, relevance</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>This report presents the conceptual framework and tools developed for, and the findings of, the first assessment of the LIFT-level Evaluation and Learning Questions (ELQ) on Relevance and sustainability. The study focused mostly on project level relevance and sustainability but also considered relevance and sustainability at the LIFT level and in overall terms thorough interviews of key LIFT staff and review of documentation.</p> <p>FINDINGS</p> <p>Relevance was found to be a strong point for almost all LIFT projects, LIFT-level projects and outcomes and LIFT as a whole. LIFT was considered as highly relevant in overall terms. All except one of the 23 projects reviewed were found to have satisfactory relevance with 30 per cent as highly relevant and 65 per cent as mostly relevant. The main areas of weakness were in the relevance of project design to the objectives and context, the ability of management to adapt to changing circumstances or poor design, and subsequent effectiveness in reaching the ultimate beneficiaries. Sustainability, on the other hand, was found to have relatively weaker performance with only 26 per cent of the 23 projects reviewed found likely to have satisfactory sustainability (all “mostly” rather than “highly” sustainable). All the remaining projects had moderate shortcomings (“partly” sustainable) although appropriate corrective action should be able to address the shortcomings in those projects that are still running, and improve sustainability to acceptable levels.</p>
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9.8
LIFT Theory of Change





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